

Southwestern Oregon Chapter

AMERICAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

WWW.SWOREGON-ARS.ORG/

FEBRUARY 2015



Meeting Time/Place

February 19 —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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February Program—Don Wallace

Don Wallace, of Singing Tree Gardens Nursery, will speak to us on Planting for Fragrance in the garden. Singing Tree Gardens Nursery is a unique plant nursery that specializes in a wide selection of ornamental plants. <http://singingtreegardens.com/>

President's Message

Liz Hultin

The executive board just finished meeting this afternoon at my home. It is time again to prepare for annual elections. We will need people willing to serve on a nominating committee. I will ask for volunteers at the next meeting. We also need people who are willing to be nominated for offices. At the meeting we also discussed the show to be held the last weekend in April at Pony Village. Pete has things well organized as usual and Ray has dealt with paperwork and insurance for it, but we will need chapter members to serve on clerking teams and people to donate trophy prizes. Marjene could use some help with the Saturday morning hospitality table too.

I planted species rhododendron seeds and azalea seeds January 5, 2015. Many of the seeds are sprouted, but none have yet developed secondary leaves. I started out with 27 containers, but one of my cats decided the largest one was just the right size for a bed. Maybe some plants around the edges will survive. I may end up bringing some of the seedlings to a meeting to share with anyone who is interested in trying to transplant and grow them. One rhododendron is a hardy Maddinii given to me by Bob MacIntyre at the first chapter meeting I attended after I joined ARS. The plant is now 3' high and covered with buds. It should be beautiful when it blooms this year. The flowers are white, tubular funnel, and fragrant. The seed I gathered from it was open pollinated so who knows what the results will be.

Kathy Van Veen of Van Veen Nursery contacted me several weeks ago to let me know that the Occidentale cuttings I brought her last July seem to be doing well and had put on new growth before dropping their leaves last fall. She warned me that the proof is going to be this spring when they begin to leaf out. I hope to plant some in my yard, maybe some out by the bogs, and if there are enough, bring some to meetings for door prizes. We will just have to wait and see.

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Flower Train Due Here

Ann Drake



Peter Faulk



Noyo Dream



Christmas Cheer



Looking through the archives the following novel idea was found. The Tacoma Chapter had a meeting and decided to have a rhododendron show May 7, 8 and 9th 1949. A conversation between Leonard Frisbie, show chairman, and the bank he was visiting resulted in a show being held at the bank. He had taken some blooms to the bank. Incidentally the first show Tom and I attended was held in a bank in Florence. One idea followed another and this is what transpired: A quote from The Spokesman newspaper in Spokane:

“A traveling rhododendron show from Tacoma will stop long enough to allow “Spokanites” to see a display of Washington’s official state flower. The crack Milwaukee Flyer train will pause 15 minutes at the station at 9 p.m. May 4 to allow inspection of rhododendrons which are to be placed in the train from one end to the other. The exhibit is one sponsored by the rhododendron growers, the garden club and the Bank of California. “The idea,” explained Mrs. Killian Weiler, “is to let the people of Washington and the Midwest see what our state flower is like and to advertise the rhododendron show which will be held May 8 and 9. The train will make stops for inspection only at Spokane, Minneapolis, St. Paul and Chicago. On the train will be corsages of the state flower for various garden club presidents in Spokane.” An attempt was made to fly in blossoms from England for display but the flowers were frozen as the plane moved through Canada. What a novel idea.



Companion Shrubs to Rhododendrons

Robin Hansen

Rhododendrons are among some of the most hospitable and dominant shrubs of our coastal gardens. They're compatible with many shade-tolerant perennials, small bulbs and other woody shrubs. Since many rhododendrons that are most often in gardens are in the four to eight-foot range, the following is a list of shorter shrubs that do well interplanted with them and have reasonable tolerance for our dry summers.

One little-known of years is Leucocoryne serrata of white urn-shaped conditions as least Zone 6.



member of the Ericaceae family that I've grown for a number of years is Leucocoryne serrata or Sierra Laurel. With its dark shiny evergreen leaves, it is a small shrub (so far about two feet) with racemes of urn-shaped flowers in spring and summer. It is happiest in the other "Ericas", with moisture and shade, and is hardy to at

Vaccinium uginosum is another two-footer with pleasingly edible blue berries in moist areas that dry out towards fall, in shade to sun along the coast. Its typical leaves are semi-deciduous and turn dusky reddish mauve in late fall. There are many varieties on the North Spit, Coos Bay and in various areas of Horsfall Beach Day Use Region Dunes National Recreation Area.



ries common in coastal huckleberry patches of the Oregon Area of the Or-

Our most common native gooseberry (although not often found) along the coast, Ribes menziesii, is a deciduous shrub from three to six feet tall, with red and purple flowers and dark blue fruit. Spines occur at the nodes and the light brown stems are bristly. It occupies shady to semi-shady understorey with some moisture. I have found it very drought-tolerant in summer and not especially fast-growing if not fertilized or watered except by nature. To me its bristly winter-brown stems provide a color not often found here at this time of year.

Potentilla fruticosa is a summer flowering, sometimes deciduous shrub for full sun, tolerates dry summers, but is happiest with some moisture during the driest months, and stays two to three feet tall. The species has one-inch bright yellow flowers with pinnately cleft small gray-green leaves. I grow only the species; however, there are many named varieties ranging from white to orange to red that are equally attractive and more floriferous.

Many members have developed equal passions for non-rhododendron shrubs, such as hydrangeas, roses and alpines. I've extended my "passion" list to include these native shrubs, that while perhaps not as showy, form an important part of our coastal gardens, and provide "bones" as important as rhododendrons.



Across the Kitchen Table

Bob MacIntyre

It's that time of year again when we need to be considering new plants for the garden. It is also time to begin garden clean-up from the limbs, small branches and other material that has been blown around our gardens and is creating a littered garden as well as a breeding place for slugs and snails. Be sure to use a good but safe snail bait.

The 1st application of fertilizer is due about President's Day. With the heavy rain of December the magnesium and calcium will have washed away, An application of either Epsom salt solution of 1 tablespoon/gallon of water, which can be put on as a drench at the drip line, or dolomite lime which contains magnesium and calcium. Sulfates are needed as plant metabolism and root growth will correct leaf color issues.

If you find any freeze damaged foliage, do not prune until after the plant has blossoms and starts its growth cycle. Many plants will start a new growth bud just below the freeze damage. Branches that have been taken off by the wind or animal damage can be pruned off with a good clean cut. This will prevent further damage from fungal or bacterial infection at the break site.

This is a good time to start rhody seeds. For those interested in starting seeds contact Liz or myself for instruction and maybe some starting media.

Our February program will feature Don Wallace, owner of Singing Tree Gardens Nursery and a member of the Eureka Chapter. Don is one of the newer hybridizers on the west coast and has been very successful with many new and interesting hybrids. He will talk about planting for fragrance in your garden. He will be bringing some plants for those interested in purchasing them.

P.S. - Early bloom has started with R. Chrysodoron "His Lordship"



Noyo Dream

Sausalito with leaves washed



Show Time is Just Around the Corner

It is time to start thinking about and planning for our annual show. **Our show this year will take place on April 25 & 26**

That means we will be in need of trophies. If you would like to donate a trophy please let one of the officers know. More information about what you can do to help with the show will be coming later.



Photos in this newsletter are courtesy of Ray Lee

Future Events

- 2015 April 11 & 12—Siuslaw Early Show
- April 25 & 26—Southwestern Oregon Flower Show
- May 6-10—ARS Annual Convention—70th Anniversary, Sidney, BC Canada
- May 16 & 17—Siuslaw Rhody Festival & Flower Show

- 2016 April 20-24—ARS/ASA Annual Convention, Williamsburg, VA

