



Rhododendron occidentale

OCCIDENTALE

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE DE ANZA CHAPTER,
AMERICAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

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The Newsletter of the De Anza Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society

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Welcome to the **February 2011** Issue of the newsletter for the DeAnza Chapter of the ARS. I am seeking your input on what articles and topics you would like to see covered in the newsletter. Full color copy of the newsletter is available via email subscription or on our website

**Next Meeting: WEDNESDAY,
FEBRUARY 16TH, 7:30 TO 9 PM
Hillview Community Center
Room 12
97 Hillview av., Los Altos**

MEETING TOPIC: *Hybridizing For Beginners ~ Goals, Techniques & Results*

SPEAKER: *Don Wallace of Singing Tree Garden Nursery*

In this program, Don Wallace will take you through the various stages of hybridizing rhododendrons so that it will be "easy" for anyone, even beginners, to understand. Answers to questions such as "How do I pick good parents for my crosses?", or "How do I save pollen?" will be answered. Don has been actively hybridizing rhododendrons for over 20 years, and will also share many tips and techniques from other hybridizers. Don will be bringing a selection of rhododendron hybrids and species from his nursery to sell at the meeting. **Check out Don's website: singtree.com to see which of Don's plants you have to have. Email Bee Brown (beebrown01@gmail.com) if you would like to special order Don's fantastic plants with personal delivery next Wed night.**

**Join other members for a special pre-meeting dinner @ 5:30 PM
@ Pompeii Restaurant, 100 State St, Los Altos, (across from CITI Bank Plaza)
Call or email Erika Enos to reserve your place by Tuesday, FEB. 15th @ 5:30 PM
(dble11@yahoo.com or 650-493-6677)**

Bringers of goodies this month: *Tom Wynn & Karina Nilsen*

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The board is starting to think about officers for the coming year. If you would like to become a board member or even an officer, please speak up and let one of our officers know – don't be shy. It's a great way to enlarge your circle of friends while contributing to an organization you enjoy.

MARCH MEETING

For our March meeting, Nan Ray will lead a discussion about why certain rhododendrons just don't perform (grow, bloom) as they're supposed to. Please bring in a list of your 5 "worst performer" loser plants. We'll compare notes to see if failure is because of us or the plant.

We'll also have a local landscaper - whose specialty is pruning – demonstrate how to properly and aesthetically prune Japanese Maples. He will also talk about pruning in general and touch on pruning of rhododendrons.

SHOW & TELL

Do you have a "Seta", "Noyo Dream" "Cornubia", "Crysodorum" or other early blooming rhododendron and azalea blooming in your garden now? If so, bring in a truss to share, so the rest of us can be inspired to grow early bloomers too.

MAINTENANCE

Our speaker, Don Wallace suggests feeding your rhodies in mid Feb (like now) and again in mid June. If you're going to feed your plants now, use fertilizer with a high "P" (NPK) value for big blooms. Don also suggests using fish emulsion or liquid kelp for foliar feeding on a monthly basis. Think about adding some early blooming or late blooming rhodies to your collection to extend your enjoyment of the bloom season.

MEETING & ACTIVITY SCHEDULE FOR 2010 / 2011 SEASON

Feb 16 th	Don Wallace of Singing Tree Nursery
Mar 16 th	Discussion of rhodie "losers" and Japanese Maple Pruning Demo
April 20 th	Bob Weissman on the 2010 International Convention in Germany
April ?	Plant Sale – TBD
May 18 th	TBD
June 18 th	Annual End of Season Meeting & Pot Luck @ Bee Brown's Home in Portola Valley

[Additional Dates to Mark on your Calendars:](#)

CAMELLIA SOCIETY SHOW & SALE: February 12th & 13th, 12 noon to 4 PM, 1400 Roosevelt, Redwood City

STRYBING SALES: General Sale February 12th – 10 AM to 1 PM @ the Garden Nursery

SAN FRANCISCO FLOWER SHOW: March 23rd to 27th – San Mateo Event Center

ARS ANNUAL CONVENTION: Vancouver Washington, **May 11-15, 2011** (see ARS Journal for details)

SEE YOU ON WEDNESDAY EVENING, FEBRUARY, 16TH

Erika Enos – newsletter editor