



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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Website: <http://www.deanza-ars.com/>

MAY 2010

Welcome to the **MAY 2010** 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
MAY 19, 2010 7:30 PM
Hillview Senior Center,
Room 12
97 Hillview Ave, Los Altos, CA**

**MEETING TOPIC: Attracting Barn Owls And Other Beneficial Birds
To Your Garden**

SPEAKER: John Schuster

Members and guests are invited to come and hear John Schuster, owner of Wild Wing Company. John established his business in Cotati in 2000 because of his interest in cavity nesting bird conservation. Since then he has personally witnessed the success that beneficial cavity nesting birds have on controlling pests in vineyard operations.

The speaker will bring a barn owl nesting box and illustrate how one barn owl can eat an average of 155 gophers per year. Additional information about his company, barn owls, blue birds and his personal commitment to conservation can be obtained from www.wildwingco.com.

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 Alma Fletcher to reserve your place by Tuesday, May 18th @ 5:30 PM
(awfletcher@gmail.com)

We need volunteer refreshment providers - if you're coming to the meeting & would like to bring something sweet besides yourself, Let Tom Wynn know.

Show & tell

Got any late bloomers in your garden that you'd share with other members? Bring them to Wednesday night's meeting. Got any companion plants in their full glory right now? Please bring those too. We need to broaden our horizons.

MAINTENANCE

What to do for your rhododendrons & azaleas this month? Two tasks are required now: deadhead and prune. Both tasks will insure more blossoms next year. Don Wallace of Singing Tree Nursery advises feeding your plants on Father's Day, i.e. in June – we're almost there.

CHAPTER OFFICERS FOR NEXT YEAR

Officer Nominees for 2010-2011 Year are:

President – Bee Brown

Vice President / Speaker Chairperson – Nan Ray

Secretary / Newsletter Editor – Christy Hartsell & Erika Enos

Treasurer – Mary Tye

Refreshment Chairperson – Tom Wynn

Membership – Alma Fletcher

Publicity – Mike McCullough

We will vote for the new officers @ our annual End of Season Meeting, June 12th

MEETING & ACTIVITY SCHEDULE FOR 2009/2010

June 12th **End of Season Picnic & Meeting @ Nan Ray's home (12 noon til 2pm)**
This will be a pot luck with Chapter providing the main dish & drinks, we'll also have a "plant exchange" (not limited to rhodies), so look around to see what's outgrown its bed, or start some cuttings to share with other members

Additional Dates to Mark on your Calendars:

May 15th Mid Peninsula Open Gardens Entry fee \$5.00 per garden
<http://www.gardenconservancy.org/opendays/events.pl?ID=333&SortBy=&State=CA&Display=PrintFriendly> .

June 5th Mid-Peninsula League of the SF Symphony will host Symphony in Flowers @ a private home in Woodside. The event will feature a beautiful 5-acre garden, live classical music and jazz, Master Gardeners to answer gardening questions, a silent auction and raffle, and delicious garden dining. For more information and to purchase tickets, please contact Elsa Heald at (650) 968-4596.

STRYBING SALES: Perennials - June 12th (10am – 1pm) **Botanical Garden @ Golden Gate Park SF**

SEE YOU ON WEDNESDAY EVENING, MAY, 19TH

Erika Enos – newsletter editor