



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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NOV 2009

Welcome to the **NOV 2009** 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.

**Next Meeting: Wednesday
NOV 18th, 2009 7:30 pM
Hillview Senior Center,
Room 12
97 Hillview Ave, Los Altos, CA**

MEETING TOPIC: VIREYAS, THE EXOTIC RHODODENDRONS

SPEAKER: Sherla Bertelman of Pacific Island Nursery

Sherla & her husband Richard Marques have been growing vireyas for their mail order nursery in Kea'au on the Big Island of Hawaii for over 13 years, and she started the Hawaii chapter of the ARS. Sherla will share her knowledge & experience with vireyas.

Although vireyas are the "exotica" of the rhododendron family, we are fortunate to be able to grow them in our area. They have attributes that make them very desirable plants for our gardens. They do well in pots, making vireyas a good choice for our smaller gardens. Another virtue of vireyas is that they bloom throughout the year and have a strong blooming period in the fall, when most other flowers have finished. As an added bonus, many varieties are fragrant – what more can we ask! If you would like to try your hand at growing these special plants, our chapter will be selling plants from Sherla's nursery @ our meeting Wed. night. A special speaker and a unique opportunity to acquire some special plants will make for a "can't miss" meeting Wed. night.

~~~~November meeting refreshment providers: Christy Hartsell, Joe Randazzo, & Tom Wynn~~~~

**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, NOV 17th @ 5:30 PM**

If you haven't mailed your [yearly dues](#) check yet, you can bring it to the meeting

### Show & tell

Anything blooming in your gardens now that you would like to bring to share @ our meeting?  
Even blooming azaleas are welcome!

### Maintenance

**AND don't forget:** You can still transplant your rhodies now – just be sure to take a **w I d e** root ball since your plants have a wide but shallow root system. Don't prune unless you're not interested in getting any flowers next spring. To get bigger flowers in the spring, now is the time to start feeding your plants with food high in phosphorus (middle element in NPK analysis). The society will sell plant food @ our next meeting in 2 ½ lb packages with NPK elements: 5-35-35.

## Meeting & Activity Schedule for 2009 / 2010

### Season

|                        |                                            |
|------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| Nov 18 <sup>th</sup> : | Sherla Bertelmann (from Hawaii) on Vireyas |
| Dec 12 <sup>th</sup>   | Holiday Dinner & Gift Exchange             |
| Jan 20 <sup>th</sup>   | Steve Hootman from the Species Foundation  |
| Feb 17 <sup>th</sup>   | TBD                                        |
| March 17 <sup>th</sup> | Celari (Nursery in Mendocino County)       |
| April 21 <sup>st</sup> | TBD                                        |
| May 19 <sup>th</sup>   | TBD                                        |
| June (date TBD)        | End of Season Picnic & Meeting             |

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*Board member, Karina Nilsen has graciously volunteered to host our  
December Holiday Party, Saturday Dec 12<sup>th</sup> @ her home in Los Altos  
A formal invitation will be sent to members (with location & pot luck designations)*

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\*\*Chapter "Plant Labeler" will be available for use @ our [Jan](#) meeting – bring your list of names\*\*

## ADDITIONAL DATES TO MARK ON YOUR CALENDARS:

Nov 14<sup>th</sup>: End of Season Sale @ Strybing Arboretum, San Francisco

See you on **Wednesday Evening, NOV 18th st**  
Erika Enos – newsletter editor