



*Rhododendron occidentale*

# OCCIDENTALE

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE DE ANZA CHAPTER,  
AMERICAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

President:	Bee Brown.....beebrown01@gmail.com
Vice President:	Nan Ray.....nanray34@gmail.com
Newsletter Editor:	Erika Enos..... dble11@yahoo.com
Secretary:	Erika Enos.....dble11@yahoo.com
Treasurer:	Christy Hartsell.....christy.b.hartsell@gmail.com
Membership:	Pat Ley.....ley.pat@gmail.com
Refreshments:	Joe Randazzo.....via phone
Publicity:	Mike McCullough...mcculloughm@earthlink.net



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

Volume 13, Issue 5

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

FEB 2018

**Welcome** to the FEB. **2018** 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: FEBRUARY 21th, 7:30 to 9 PM**

**MEETING TOPIC: Innovative Organic Vegetable Gardening**

**SPEAKER: O'Malley Stoumen**

O'Malley was born and raised in Palo Alto and after more than 30 years away returned to Palo Alto 12 years ago. She has spent over 40 years focusing on growing fruits and vegetables. Her garden has been on several garden tours including The Gamble Garden Spring Tour, The Garden Conservancy Tour, Common Ground Edible Garden Tour, The Palo Alto Garden Club Tour, The Santa Rosa Garden Club Tour, The Silicon Valley Tour De Coop Tour and the Bay Friendly Garden Tour. She has also spoken before the Palo Alto Garden Club, The Atherton Garden Club, Gamble Garden and upcoming Los Altos Garden Club. In Addition O'Malley has written a digital book Vegetable Gardening: The Next Level available on iTunes <http://bit.ly/1K7J38E>

If you'd like to join fellow members and our guest speaker at the pre-meeting dinner @ Pompeii Restaurant, 100 State St, Los Altos, please contact Pat Ley ([ley.pat@gmail.com](mailto:ley.pat@gmail.com) or 650-941-1674) by Tues @ 5:30 to reserve your spot at the rhodie table.

**Bringers of goodies this month: Alma Fletcher & MaryAnn Young**

## **SHOW & TELL**

**Bring what's blooming in your gardens to share**

## **MAINTENANCE**

I love to get Don Wallace's (Singing Tree Gardens Nursery) weekly newsletter. He usually has helpful hints for feeding & maintaining rhododendrons & azaleas. His latest tip is:

### **It's Time to Feed Your Rhododendrons**

The 2 main feeding times that we recommend for rhododendrons are Valentine's Day and Father's Day. This does not mean you have to feed on these exact days...we just use these holidays to help us remember when the fertilizer should be applied. The Valentine's Day feeding is to give your plants the necessary energy to produce all of those big, showy blooms. It has been said that this winter feeding will increase the size and depth of color of rhododendron flowers, increase the length of the bloom, and make your plants stronger. Along with that, the leaves will darken and become more shiny. We recommend 1 cup of a well balanced, time release fertilizer around the drip line of plants 3 feet tall or less, and 1 1/2 to 2 cups for larger plants. Use your best judgment, as some old, much larger plants may need more. If you can toss some good bark mulch over the fertilizer, your plants will get more of the food and the bark will help prevent weed germination.

Another of Don's tips is to sprinkle about a hand full of Epsom Salts around the base of your plants, and then water, to green up the leaves

### **Meeting & Activity Schedule for 2017 / 2018 Season**

Feb 21st Organic Vegetable Gardening w/O'Malley Stouman  
Mar 21st Rhododendron Q&A w/Ruth & Bruce Palmer  
Apr 18th Plant Sale Planning  
May ? Possible Field Trip

### **Additional Dates to Mark on your Calendars**

FEB 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> -- Annual Camellia Show & Sale in Redwood City  
MAR 3<sup>rd</sup> -- Strybing Monthly Plant Sale - 10:00 to 1pm

Do you know of any gardening related events members would like to know about, please share

**See you Wed the 21<sup>st</sup> – Remember New Room #18**

*Erika Enos – newsletter editor*