



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/>

JAN 2010

Welcome to the **JAN 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.

Next Meeting: WEDNESDAY
JAN 20, 2010 7:30 PM
Hillview Senior Center,
Room 12
97 Hillview Ave, Los Altos, CA

MEETING TOPIC: **Rhododendron Hunting in the Himalayas**

SPEAKER: **Steve Hootman of the Species Foundation**

Steve Hootman is co-director and curator of the Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden in Federal Way, WA, and is one of the world's foremost plant hunters. He has led expeditions to the eastern Himalayas in China, helping further conservation of wild rhododendrons and other plant material in an area rich in plant diversity. By also bringing back propagation material, Steve enriches the collection of the Species Foundation's garden, making these new plants available to the public for propagation and hybridization.

The illustrated talk will highlight the diversity of species on the "sky islands," the isolated slopes of these mountains. Each mountain and each elevation zone sports its own varieties of perennials, shrubs and trees, creating a genetic diversity unparalleled anywhere else in the world.

Check out the Foundation's website: www.rhodygarden.org to acquire unusual specimens

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, Jan 19th @ 5:30 PM
(650-851-1334) or awfletcher@aol.com

Show & tell

Anything blooming in your gardens now that you would like to bring to share @ our meeting?
It's true we've had some frost in Dec., but there must be some early flowers popping out that you'd like to show off. Even blooming azaleas are welcome!

MAINTENANCE

AND don't forget: To get bigger flowers, now is the time to feed 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. The plant food should be dissolved in water for a quick feeding boost now as the buds swell.

MEETING & ACTIVITY SCHEDULE FOR 2009 / 2010

SEASON

| | |
|------------------------|--|
| Jan 20 th | Steve Hootman from the Species Foundation |
| Feb 17 th | The Mathey's Harmony Woods Gardens, in Ft Bragg |
| March 17 th | Jim Celeri (Nursery in Mendocino County) |
| April 28 st | Rhododendrons in New Zealand (NOTE: this will be on the 4 th Wed. in April) |
| May 19 th | TBD |
| June (date TBD) | End of Season Picnic & Meeting |

The Society extends a huge Thank You to Board member, Karina Nilsen, who graciously hosted our Holiday Party

Chapter "Plant Labeler" will be available for use @ our Jan meeting – bring your list of names

Additional Dates to Mark on your Calendars:

Two Programs sponsored by the Camellia Society, both @ RWC Community Center, 1400 Roosevelt Rd RWC:
Jan 25th - Camellia Society Meeting Program: Using Camellias in Arrangements @ 7PM,
Feb 13th & 14th - Annual Camellia Show & Sale 10:30 to 3 PM,
March 24th thru the 28th - San Francisco Garden Show @ the San Mateo County Fairgrounds
MAY 14th – 17th – Annual ARS Conference, Long Island, New York

SEE YOU ON WEDNESDAY EVENING, JAN 20TH

Erika Enos – newsletter editor