



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

Volume 6, Issue 4

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

JAN 2011

Welcome to the January 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: TUESDAY, JANUARY 25TH,
7:30 TO 9 PM**

*Hillview Community Center, Room 12
97 Hillview Ave, Los Altos*

MEETING TOPIC: Going "Green" & Recycling in the Garden

SPEAKER: Kathy Van Veen of Van Veen Nursery in Portland OR

Bring your sense of humor to our January meeting! You will have an evening of laughter as you hear how to "go green" and recycle EVERYTHING while running a large garden or nursery! Hear how Kathy "borrowed" from the neighbors! Years before anyone ever used the term "green" except in the color world, Kathy Van Veen used her thrifty Dutch ingenuity to carry on her grandfather's nursery, using the sound principles of recycling and finding new uses for old things! We have waited years for Kathy to find a free day to leave her nursery long enough to come down and speak to us. This will be a lot of fun!

Kathy is owner of Van Veen Rhododendron Nursery in Portland, the first rhododendron nursery in America.

**We thought it would be nice to have a communal dinner on a cold, dark night,
So come to the meeting early: 6:00 PM
Because we're having a POTLUCK**

**The Society will provide main dish & drinks,
Members to provide the following :**

Potluck Dishes (please bring 8 servings of your delicious contribution)

A -- I: appetizers

Q -- Z: salads

J -- P: desserts

SHOW & TELL

I know I have plants starting to bloom so I'm sure you have too. Bring in your early blooming trusses for all of us enjoy and hopefully we'll get inspired to grow them too.

MAINTENANCE

Rhododendrons bloom during their dormant period so while they are dormant (and blooming), its a good time to do transplanting. Because we've had a wet winter so far, you might want to make sure your soil is not wet mud before you start your transplanting. Since rhodie roots are thin, fibrous and grow near the surface, make sure the root ball you dig out is wide. And remember to position your plants more on top of the soil than into it, to insure good drainage. If you're going to feed your plants now, use fertilizer with a high "P" (NPK) value for big blooms. And most importantly, enjoy the start of the rhododendron season.

MEETING & ACTIVITY SCHEDULE FOR 2010 / 2011 SEASON

- Jan 25th Kathy Van Veen of Van Veen Nursery in Portland, OR
NOTE: This is on a TUESDAY night & we will have a potluck
- Feb 16th Don Wallace of Singingtree Nursery
- Mar 16th TBD
- April 20th Bob Weissman on the 2010 International Convention in Germany
Plant Sale – TBD
- May 18th TBD
- June 18th 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 T U E S D A Y EVENING, JANUARY, 25TH

Erika Enos – newsletter editor