



Rhododendron occidentale

OCCIDENTALE

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE DE ANZA CHAPTER,
AMERICAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

President: Christy Hartsell.....christy.b.hartsell@gmail.com
 Vice President: Nan Ray.....nanray@earthlink.net
 Newsletter Editor: Erika Enos.....dble11@yahoo.com
 Secretary: Erika Enos.....dble11@yahoo.com
 Treasurer in training: Karin Thorne.....Karint32@gmail.com
 Membership: Alma Fletcher.....almawfletcher@gmail.com
 Refreshment: Joe Randazzo.....via phone
 Publicity: Mike McCullough.....mcculloughm@earthlink.net

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JAN 2015

Welcome to the **JAN 2015** 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
JAN 21st 7:30 to 9:00 pm
Hillview Community Center
ROOM 12 97 Hillview Av., Los
Altos

MEETING: Arnie Cornez – Pruning of Japanese Maples

He was so informative last year, we are having him back! Arnie will demonstrate pruning and shaping of staples of our garden landscapes and companion plants to our rhodies: Japanese Maples. He will show us how to use various tools: pruners, saws & loppers to train the growth and enhance the beauty of these elegant trees.

Arnie Cornez teaches @ the Foothill College Hort Dept, is a docent @ Hakone Gardens in Saratoga, and a pruner @ Gamble Gardens in Palo Alto.

JOIN OTHER MEMBERS & OUR SPEAKER FOR A PRE-MEETING DINNER @ 5:30

@ Pompeii Restaurant, 100 State St., Los Altos (across from CITI Bank Plaza)

Contact Nan Ray (650-322-5688 or nanray@earthlink.net)

to reserve your place @ the Rhodie Table by Tues Jan 20th

SHOW & TELL

With no rain last year and a very warm fall, are your rhodies' blooming times out of sync? Did some of your trusses bloom early, only to be beaten down by the storms in Dec? Bring samples of what's blooming in your garden now, that usually blooms in March and April, so we can compare & see if the same varieties of plants are "out of sync" in all of our gardens.

MAINTENANCE

We did have some rain, but was it enough to turn the sprinklers off? The first couple of inches of soil may be wet, but dig down a couple inches of more, to see if soil is dry 4 or 5 inches below the top. If it's dry - then don't stop watering. Fortunately, rhododendron roots are shallow, so the first couple of inches of wet soil is great, but this is also the portion which dries out the quickest, so don't be lulled into thinking you're home free - keep an eye out for droopy leaves and browning buds. We are in the middle of January, we still may have additional frosty nights in the next 6 weeks, so when the temperatures get close to freezing, cover those plants, esp maddenias & vireyas, which are frost tender. Your rhodies could also stand an application of phosphate (high number for the middle letter in the n-p-k formula) to ensure that the buds get properly fed.

2014/2015 MEETING SCHEDULE

- Jan 21st Arnie Cornez. Japanese Maples
- Feb 18th Parker Smith. Designing a Garden w/Rhododendrons
- Mar 18th Tim Walsh Maddenii for Your Garden
- Apr 12th DeAnza Chapter Plant Sale
- April 18th Cal Chapter Show & Sale
- May (tbd) Field Trip
- June 14th Annual End of Season Meeting & Pot Luck Picnic

Additional Dates to Mark on your Calendars

- Feb 14 & 15: Camellia Society Show & Sale (12 to 4) 1400 Roosevelt, Redwood City
- Mar 18-22: San Francisco Flower Show, San Mateo Convention Center, San Mateo
- May 6-10: ARS Annual Convention, Sidney, British Columbia, Canada

Erika Enos, Newsletter Editor

