



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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MARCH 2010

Welcome to the **MARCH 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
MARCH 17, 2010 7:30 PM
Hillview Senior Center,
Room 12
97 Hillview Ave, Los Altos, CA

MEETING TOPIC: *Things No One Else Tells You About Rhododendrons*

SPEAKERS: *Jim Celeri of Celeri & Son Nursery*

Jim will be informing us about rhododendron culture and damage caused by pests and diseases. To show what pests and diseases do, he will be bringing in some examples of plant damage for demonstration. He will be also talking about proper fertilization. In case Jim has missed something that concerns you particularly, there will also be a question & answer period. Don't be shy and feel free to bring examples of your problems (leaves, bark, branches). Diseases that affect your rhodies also affect other plants, so Jim will be able to help you solve problems with other plants as well. **Jim will be bringing some of his nursery plants to sell!**

The five acre Celeri & Son Nursery, which the family has owned for twenty years, is located at 20000 Summers Lane, Fort Bragg, CA 95437. Phone: 707-964-7526.

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, March 16th @ 5:30 PM
(awfletcher@gmail.com or 650-851-1334)

We need volunteer refreshment providers – if you're coming to the meeting & would like to bring something sweet besides yourself, Let Tom Wynn know (408-245-1785, or wynn.t@comcast.net)

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Show & tell

No excuses now for not bringing blooms to share! We all have something in bloom now. If you'd like to bring an arrangement of what's blooming in your garden in mid-March, or just some trusses – we'd all love to see them! Flower envy is not only condoned, but encouraged!

MAINTENANCE

March is the start of the “rewards” period of gardening. During the next three months, we should be enjoying the fruits of our labor. It's also the busiest time for gardeners: don't forget to stop and smell the rhododendrons once in a while. Don't have fragrant rhodies? Now is the time, with plant sales in the next couple of months and nurseries in full bloom, to add some fragrant rhodies to your collection: maddenii & vireyas are perfect additions.

Chapter Officers for Next Year

Nan Ray, Bee Brown & Alma Fletcher are on the Nominating Committee to choose our officers for the coming year. Some of our members have been officers for a long time & it would be nice to share the burdens and joys of running our chapter with more members. If you would like to volunteer for a position on the board, or would like to volunteer to be an “officer in training”, the nominating committee would love to hear from you. Candidates will be announced @ our May meeting

MEETING & ACTIVITY SCHEDULE FOR 2009 / 2010

SEASON

March 17th Jim Celeri of Celeri Nursery in Ft Bragg
April 17th ANNUAL DE ANZA CHAPTER PLANT SALE (SAT 9 to 12 noon)
April 28th Rhododendrons in New Zealand (NOTE: this will be on the 4th Wed. in April)
May 19th TBD
June 12th End of Season Picnic & Meeting @ Nan Ray's home (12 noon til 2pm)
This will be a pot luck with Chapter providing the main dish & drinks, we'll also have a “plant exchange” (not limited to rhodies), so look around to see what's outgrown its bed, or start some cuttings to share with other members

Additional Dates to Mark on your Calendars:

March 24th thru the 28th - San Francisco Garden Show @ the San Mateo County Fairgrounds
April 10th & 11th – Cal Chapter Show & Sale (Lakeside Park Garden Center, 666 Bellevue Av, Oakland)
April 18th & May 9th – Monterey Bay Chapter's Tours of Monte Toyon Garden, Aptos, CA
April 23 & 24th – Gamble Garden Tour, Palo Alto, CA
April 24th – Monterey Bay Chapter Show & Sale, Cabrillo College, Santa Cruz, CA
May 1st & 2nd - 33rd Annual Noyo Chapter Show & Sale, Ft. Bragg, CA
May 1st – Los Altos Garden Club Plant Exchange (we are to set up a “rhodie” blooms display)
MAY 14th – 17th – Annual ARS Conference, Long Island, New York
STRYBING SALES: Mar 27 & 28: Plant & Book Sale (10am-4pm), April 3rd: General Sale (10am – 2pm)
43rd ANNUAL SALE: May 1st (10am – 2pm) Botanical Garden @ Golden Gate Park SF

SEE YOU ON WEDNESDAY EVENING, MARCH, 17TH

Erika Enos - newsletter editor