



*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/>

MARCH 2012

**Welcome** to the MARCH 2012 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:** MARCH 21ST, 7:30 to 9 PM

Hillview Community Center  
Room 12  
97 Hillview Av., Los Altos

### MEETING TOPIC: **Highlights of Steve's Latest China Expedition**

**SPEAKER:** STEVE HOOTMAN, Executive Director and Curator of the Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden, in Federal Way, Washington. Over the past 26 years Steve has become a foremost international authority on Rhododendron taxonomy and distribution. Steve will be reporting on his 2010 plant hunting foray into barely accessible regions of Southern China & the mountains on the Vietnamese border, searching for, and finding, several elusive rhododendron species which have not been seen by westerners for decades, if at all. The accounts of his adventures exploring incredible, yet dauntingly difficult terrain (some of the climbing on this trip was straight up thousand foot cliffs!); his beautiful photographs showing the last wild habitats of rhododendrons; and his broad knowledge of the genus which he will generously share with our members, make this an informative meeting you won't want to miss.

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, MAR 20th @ 5:30 PM

Bringers of goodies this month: **The Tyes & Erika Enos**

We still need refreshment volunteers for each monthly meeting, so we will pass around a sign-up sheet @ this month's meeting, since not all the spaces got filled on the last pass around

## SHOW & TELL

Last month we had several members bring in blooms from their gardens, hopefully, more of you will bring your blooms in this month. Get creative and bring in an arrangement!

## MAINTENANCE

Now that the danger of frost has past, it is a good time for pruning and fertilizing your plants.

Pruning is best done while the plant is in bloom (bring in the flower spray & enjoy indoors) or just after blooms fade. Prune before new growth emerges so you don't cut off next year's buds.

When doing extensive pruning, make sure you prune back no more than a 1/3 of the plant each season. Fertilize with rhodie/azalea food just after blooming finishes.

## Meeting & Activity Schedule for 2011 / 2012 Season

Mar 21 <sup>st</sup>	Steve Hootman
April 18 <sup>th</sup>	TBD
April 21 <sup>st</sup>	ANNUAL PLANT SALE
May 16 <sup>th</sup>	Mediterranean Plants w/Sandy Scott
June 9 <sup>th</sup>	End of Season Meeting & Pot Luck

## Additional Dates to Mark on your Calendars

March 21-25 2012: SF Flower & Garden Show, San Mateo Event Center ([www.sfgardenshow.com](http://www.sfgardenshow.com))

March 31<sup>st</sup> 2012: Master Gardeners Spring Garden Market (9-2) 1650 Sentel, San Jose

April 7<sup>th</sup> 2012: Strybing Arboretum Monthly Plant Sale (10 -1), Golden Gate Park

April 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> 2012: Cal Chapter Annual Show & Sale, Oakland, CA

May 5 & 6<sup>th</sup> 2012: Noyo Chapter Annual Show & Sale, Ft. Bragg, CA

May 4-7<sup>th</sup> 2012: ARS Annual Convention ([www.azaleas.org/convention12.html](http://www.azaleas.org/convention12.html))

SEE YOU AT THE MEETING ON **WEDNESDAY EVENING, MARCH 21<sup>ST</sup>**

*Erika Enos – newsletter editor*