



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/>

NOV 2010

**Welcome** to the **November 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 or on our website

**Next Meeting: WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 17<sup>TH</sup>, 7:30 TO 9 PM**

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

**MEETING TOPIC: Everything Christy Knows About Vireyas - Alot**

**SPEAKER: Our Own Christy Hartsell**

By his own admission, Christy is not a gardener, but he is a great and very knowledgeable plant collector. In his garden you'll find many unusual plants but the plants that stand out – both in numbers and variety are his vireyas. Christy's love of vireyas comes through when ever he talks about them: the colors, the crosses, the leaf structure. Wednesday night we get to share both his love and his knowledge of this special group of rhododendrons we are lucky enough to grow in our area. There will be vireyas to purchase to start your love affair

**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 Erika Enos to reserve your place by Tuesday, NOV 16th @ 5:30 PM)**

**Since there won't be a Dec newsletter – just an evite, I thought I'd get you started cooking:  
Holiday Party Potluck Dishes (please bring 8 servings of your delicious contribution)**

**J -- P: appetizers  
A -- I: salads  
Q -- Z: desserts**

DUES ARE PAST DUE –MAIL BACK YOUR CHECKS AS SOON AS YOU GET THE ENVELOPES IN THE MAIL, OR, SAVE A STAMP & BRING YOUR CHECKS TO THE MEETING

## SHOW & TELL

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

## MAINTENANCE

More on fertilizer: Don Wallace, of Singing Tree Nursery printed a recipe for "home made" rhododendron fertilizer in his Oct 2009 newsletter, I don't think he'll mind if I post it here:  
(you can buy these ingredients "in bulk" @ Common Ground in Palo Alto)

### Home-Made Fall Fertilizer

- 1 part rock phosphate (or triple phosphate) for healthier roots, stems, and leaves
- 1 part Kelp meal for disease resistance, and many trace elements that boost plant health
- 1/2 part Alfalfa meal for plant vigor, this will help the plant fend off diseases and insects.
- 1 part dolomite for magnesium and ph adjustment of very acid conditions
- 1/2 part greensand to give your plants better moisture retention in cold, drying winds.

## MEETING & ACTIVITY SCHEDULE FOR 2010 / 2011 SEASON

- Nov 17<sup>th</sup> Christy Hartsell on his passion: Vireyas
- Dec 4<sup>th</sup> Holiday Party @ Karina Nilsen's home in Los Altos
- Jan 25<sup>th</sup> Kathy Van Veen of Van Veen Nursery in Portland, OR  
**NOTE: This is on a TUESDAY night & we will have a potluck**
- Feb 16<sup>th</sup> Don Wallace of Singingtree Nursery
- Mar 16<sup>th</sup> TBD
- April 20<sup>th</sup> Bob Weissman on the 2010 International Convention in Germany  
Plant Sale – TBD
- May 18<sup>th</sup> TBD
- June 18<sup>th</sup> Annual End of Season Meeting & Pot Luck @ Bee Brown's Home in Portola Valley

### Additional Dates to Mark on your Calendars:

- STRYBING SALES:** Botanical Garden @ Golden Gate Park SF, **Nov 13<sup>th</sup>** – End of Season Sale (10 am to 1 pm)
- ARS ANNUAL CONVENTION:** Vancouver Washington, **May 11-15, 2011** (see ARS Journal for details)

SEE YOU ON WEDNESDAY EVENING, NOVEMBER, 17TH

*Erika Enos – newsletter editor*