



# Southwestern Oregon Chapter

AMERICAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

## Happy Thanksgiving

NOVEMBER 2009

### Meeting Time/Place

November 19 — 7:00 pm  
N. Bend Housing Authority  
1700 Monroe Street  
North Bend

### Pre Meeting Dinner 5:00 pm

Coach House  
604 6th Avenue  
Coos Bay  
267-5116  
RSVP to Jan Lee—  
fogline1@verizon.net or call  
267-4176

### Refreshments

Refreshments will be provided by Cheryl and Ron Prchal

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## November Program

Robert Vandervelden, a creator of water features for gardens, will be our featured speaker for this November meeting. Robert started as a general contractor and graduated to water features. He has installed approx. 50 water features in the area between Myrtle Point and Hauser. He will discuss the use of upwelling bogs for biological filtration in water features, species of plants, pumps, construction materials and all facets of water gardening. Last May a garden tour was held showing water features

## President's Message

*Liz Hultin*

Yet another Fall. Cranberry harvest is beginning. Many of our neighbors are right in the middle of it now. I mowed the strip between the road and our bogs where I had planted 35 rhododendrons in late spring. They drew a lot of attention from people passing by. Most of the plants are well budded. They should really draw attention when they bloom next spring. I noticed one which is not budded and is really yellow. I read the label. I must not have when I planted, because it said partial sun to shade. I don't think it can wait until the trees nearby grow big enough to shade it. It will have to find a home elsewhere.

The Bonsai presentation was really interesting. Some

of the examples Ron Wright brought in were a revelation to me. I had never thought beyond the typical small gnarled tree. A Maple forest was a wonder. Thank you Ron. I eagerly await other presenters Pete will bring to us.

Pete and Candy took a trip to Thompsons Rhododendron Nursery with the intent of purchasing some unusual plants to add more interest to our auctions. Some of the rhododendrons we held over for the auctions suffered from the sudden heat wave this summer and were sun burned. It will take a while for them to recover. Some of mine that have been in the ground for years got burned too.

The plant exchange seemed to go well. I plan to bring some more to the next meeting. If anyone has recommendations about a better organization of the exchange, I would be happy to hear them. Plant sharing might be a better description of what we did last time.

We need to think about plans for the December meeting. Bob and Marjene have graciously offered to host the pot luck. Do we want to have a gift exchange? What limits do we want to place on the gifts? Should we organize the food or should we risk 10 desserts and one salad? I like desserts.

See you November 19th.

## October Recap

*Ann Drake*

Ron Wright presented a fascinating program on the art of bonsai culture. He brought examples using a cherry, maple and an atlantic cedar. He suggested that the plants to use as bonsai should be grown in the ground as they do not develop multi trunks in pots. He had an example of a maple with several trunks growing in a large flat container that was interesting. A way to get smaller leaves on these plants is to remove the leaves leaving a piece of the stem and the next leaves will be smaller. He uses fish emulsion fertilizer when the buds start to swell. Weights can be used to bend the branches but wrapping them with wire either copper or aluminum is

usually done now. He demonstrated pruning a specimen to shape. Gene Cockerum had an example of his experiment with bonsai, a kinzan azalea and contributed 1 small azalea for a door prize and one for the auction table. A good program with many questions from members.

The plant auction included Naselle, Seaview Sunset, Senator Jackson, and Nancy Evans. The “bring one take one “ table was a busy place including a variety of growing things.

## Ann's Corner—Looking Back

*Ann Drake*

Looking Back- In 1975 the chapter and the city of Coos Bay established a rhododendron garden in Mingus Park . In 1986 we had a flower show at Pony Village and a small plant sale. Tom Drake constructed the display racks and we are still using them!! In 1988 we began to provide the 5 libraries in the area with memberships in the society. In 1989 we had our first judged show with Jean Hanna as president and this has been a high point in our gardening year ever since. Galen Baxter and Gene Cockeram came down and helped with the first show. We did not have a sweepstakes award then but I am sure Gene would have won it!! Pete and Candy Baumer became members in 1989. Several able people served as presidents of the chapter: Evan Bone, George Guthrie, John Bergen, Willard

Morgan, Jay O'Leary, Ken Windred, Tom Drake, Lois Strong, Roger Russell, Dick Jamsgard Several of these people served more than 2 or 3 times. Upon rereading these old minutes it doesn't seem possible that we still have members that have been continuously active. We have flourished under Bob MacIntyre's leadership and Liz Hultin is continuing the tradition. Now our Bob is director of the 4<sup>th</sup> district which includes all of Oregon. Our participation in garden events is evident in the Master Gardener's Seminar, Rhododendron Sunday at Shoreacres, and visits to other garden clubs. We will be helping Siuslaw Chapter in the upcoming Western Regional in Florence. There is something bewitching and alluring about that rhododendron flower that keeps you looking for another acquisition to your collection.

## Across the Kitchen Table

*Bob MacIntyre*

As we enter the quiet time of the year in the garden there's still many things we can do.

Check your plants of any broken or damaged limbs and prune them off.

Check new plants and make sure they are still firmly planted and have not been blown out of their site by high winds. If tie them to a stake until strongly rooted.

How's a good time to sow those new seeds you've collected. You can still check for missed seed pods in the garden.

Some late flowering varieties may still have cutting wood available for propagation.

Some people have mentioned yellow leaves on their plants. Yellow leaves on old growth—2 years or more—depending on the variety are normal. There are old leaves being shed by the plant. This is a normal process this time of year and is not a problem. If this is occurring on this year's growth, that's something else and may mean the plants are not doing well where they are planted. If it is on a single branch, it can be one of several things and needs to be identified.

## What's Coming To The Plant Auction

*Ann Drake*

A new feature in the newsletter is What's Coming to the Plant Auction so members will know ahead of time what the selections will be. We had a wonderful bonsai speaker Ron Wright at our last meeting. On Nov. 19 we will have 3 bonsai plants in starter pots:

1 Radicans – very small (bright pink)

1 Kinsai – medium small (reddish orange with long narrow petals)

1 Wee Bee – medium (vivid red shading to strong pink)

We also have 4 larger plants:

1 Black Widow – Thompson's most popular new plant

1 Glowing Gold –apricot, pink edges and an orange throat

1 Super Flimmer – variegated leaves, lilac-pink flowers

1 special Jay O'Leary cross: yak x R. ungeronii- pink with glossy foliage

## Future Dates

2009—December 10—Southwestern Oregon ARS Christmas Gathering

2010 ARS Annual Convention, May 14-17, Long Island, NY

2010 Western Regional Conference, Oct 8—10, Florence, OR

These pictures were taken at the work day at Hinsdale Estate. ARS members of the Portland, Eugene, Siuslaw and Southwestern Oregon chapter met with members of BLM and planted approximately a dozen plants. It was a rainy morning, but the weather did not dampen the spirits of the hard working crew. Photos are courtesy of Dan Nickel (taken through a plastic bag to protect camera) and Bill Johnson



Camelia plant at end of house