



Southwestern Oregon Chapter

AMERICAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

WWW.SWOREGON-ARS.ORG/

MARCH 2012

Meeting Time/Place

March 15 — 7:00 pm
N. Bend Housing Authority
1700 Monroe Street
North Bend

Pre Meeting Dinner— **5:00 pm**

Coach House
604 6th Ave
Coos Bay

RSVP to Marjene—
marjenem@frontier.com or
call 541-347-7269

Meeting Refreshments:

Liz Hultin

Jan. Board Meeting

March 14th, 9:00 am
Minute Café, Bandon

President:
Ray Lee – 541-267-4176,
flyfishr@frontier.com

V-P:
Ann Drake – 541-396-2718
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March Program

Robin Hansen, one of our own members, will enlighten us about cyclamen at our March meeting.

President's Message

Ray Lee

Thank you – Kath Collier, thank you for taking the time to come do your nice program on Azaleas. We especially appreciate all of the evergreen Azaleas you brought to give to Chapter members. We even had a few left over we can use for door prizes at the next meeting.



Flowers – I like having rhododendrons blooming in our garden this time of year. Last winter there were so many members who had Christmas Cheer blooming in February that I just had to have one. It was one of the flowers I had on my list to order from Thompson's Nursery for our plant sale last year. Our plant

is only about 2' tall but it set 30 flower buds and is currently covered with flowers. It started blooming January 30th and is still covered with flowers on February 28th. Another very early bloomer we have is Bric-A-Brac that we bought from Whitney Gardens in 2010. It has covered itself with paper white flowers and dark brown stamens. A recent

very early in our garden is Noyo Dream which is a nice red that will be completely covered with flowers in the next week. I used the ARS website to find very early (VE) plants to watch for at Thompson's Nursery. The link is <http://www.rhododendron.org/alphalist.asp?BTime=VE&Genus=R>.

You can also look for very late (VL) blooming plants to print out a list for your shopping. That link is <http://www.rhododendron.org/alphalist.asp?BTime=VL&Genus=R>. Our last flower we have in our yard that is VE is Snow Lady. I first saw this plant at Shore Acres several years ago during

a mid-March visit. That mature plant by the pond is about five feet tall by eight feet across, a spectacular specimen when it covers itself with white flowers in mid to late March. One thing about VE or VL plants is that all of our flower shows are before or after they bloom. You do get to have flowers in your yard to enjoy when all of the mid blooming flowers aren't here yet or they are history. We have two other plants in the area that are blooming now. The Cornubia at 1433 N 13th and Fireman John at 1476 Juniper in Coos Bay are both dark reds that bloom in late February or early March. They are close to each other and certainly worth a visit. Pictures of both of these plants are on our website. I purchased a Cornubia at our flower sale in April 2010 but it had no flower buds in 2011 and there are none this year. **Upcoming flower show –** One thing that encourages people to enter trusses in our Flower Show is the chance to possibly win the trophy for the best truss or spray. Each year we need eight to ten trophies



President's Message (continued)

Ray Lee

for winners of various categories. Please consider donating a trophy or some money towards a trophy for our show. Who knows, you may even win a trophy for a truss you have entered.

Officers – The nominating committee of Ray Lee, Marjene MacIntyre and Dan Nickell was formed at our last Chapter meeting. The offices that need to be filled at our May meeting are President, Vice President and Secretary. The nominating committee's task is to talk to each member who is not currently on the Board to encourage them to volunteer to fill one of the vacant positions. Please consider serving the Chapter in a leadership role. One of the nominating committee members will be contacting you to encourage your agreement to volunteer as an Officer.

Next meeting – March 15th is our next meeting. Please come join us to talk about our favorite garden plant, the rhododendron.

Ann's Corner

Ann Drake

Robin Hansen, one of our own members, will enlighten us about cyclamen at our March meeting. Robin has a local mail order nursery for cyclamen, bulbs and tubers. She also has a catalog with lots of useful information. Cyclamen work well with plants in a rhody oriented garden. There are many blooming right now in among my plants. A few years ago I took a rhody to the Siuslaw chapter in Florence for an auction. It had a cyclamen growing in the pot also and my contribution brought a good price because of that cyclamen.

We welcomed Dave and Kath Collier to our meeting to discuss azaleas. Dave and Kath have an azalea nursery in Boring, Oregon and are in the process of moving their nursery to the Bandon vicinity. As well as having many slides of varieties of azaleas, she also brought a great deal of knowledge about the subject and included a handout with slide information which is always a help in using information. From pruning to planting to diseases that affect the plants she also suggested how to make the most of azaleas in our gardens. Each member received an azalea as a gift. We do thank them for sharing with us.

We welcomed Richard Haskell as a visitor and possible member. He won a door prize and one of the azaleas the Colliers so generously provided. Welcome Richard.

Despite the cold wintry weather there were quite of number of blooms in show and tell. Gene Cockerum from Siuslaw Chapter had quite a number including My Valentine one of his creations appropriate for the meeting. Cheryl and Ron Prchal brought a blooming rooted cutting of azalea Purple Dragon. It was acquired at our

cutting party in September . Spring is on its way.

A nominating committee for new officers for the coming year was appointed. Ray Lee, Marjene MacIntyre and Dan Nickell volunteered to serve. Present officers Ray Lee, Pete Baumer and Ann Drake are stepping down .

We will again have a presence at the Master Gardeners Seminar on Saturday March 31. Robin Hansen, Bob MacIntyre and Ann Drake will man an information table. The all day event will be held on the SWOCC campus in Coos Bay. The cost is \$25 and it is a full day of classes on a variety of gardening subjects. Each participant receives a ticket for a drawing held midway through the day. SWO chapter always donates a plant or two for the drawing. There will be coffee and tea available but no lunch. I notice there is a session on grafting.

Plans for the upcoming show on April 28 & 29 are well in hand. Pete has arranged for judges. Doug & Mary Furr, Gordon Wylie, Kath & Dave Collier and Larry Jensen. The plants for the plant sale have been ordered. Trophies are needed. If you want to contribute money for a trophy please contact Pete at 396-3528. Every year we present 18 trophies as well as ribbons.

We had a Kimberly in the plant auction at the February meeting; a creation of Greer's Gardens. It started me to remember how much of our success in the Chapter can be credited to Edgar and Harold Greer's pursuit of rhododendron excellence. Our rhododendron flower show has had Hallelujah, Trude Webster, Grand Slam, Kimbeth and Wild Affair and many other Greer hybrids in the truss show and plant sale. These plants are the creation of two men, Harold Greer and his father. Even as a young boy Harold was extremely knowl-



Ann's Corner (continued)

Ann Drake

edgeable about rhodies. He has been an anchor person in the rhododendron society for many years. Tom and I were regular visitors to Greer's Garden since the 1950's. Maples, magnolias, azaleas and rhododendrons were purchased from Harold and his father Edgar. My favorite was always Trude Webster and it is still a heavy bloomer and a showstopper when in bloom. A large fir tree fell on it and broke the top out and it is still going strong full of buds. This plant was awarded the first Superior Plant Award in 1971. The hybrids created at Greer Gardens are special and hold their appeal for a long time. Harold has always been a willing worker in the society. His presentations at conferences were always my favorites. He always had a handout and I did not have to fran-

tically write down names of his slides. His memory was phenomenal and he could remember the name and parentage of any plant you asked him about. His photography was exquisite and always well done. He was the cornerstone of the society in our area and still is. He organized flower shows and conferences and was always willing to promote rhododendrons at chapter meetings. He has served as the president of the society and was awarded the Gold Medal from the society in 1989. We still count on him at our meetings. There always is a Greer's Guidebook and a current catalog in the bag I take to meetings.

We sell his Guide book at our flower shows and use it as a guide when accepting entries. It would be interesting to know how many Greer hybrids are showing their pretty faces in our gardens?



Trude Webster

Across the Kitchen Table

Bob MacIntyre

I have started this edition of Across The Kitchen Table on March 3, 2012, but its been hard to concentrate as the day is beautiful. It is 60 degrees with no wind and bright sun. I've done a little yard work here and there. Checking what is coming up and what is blooming. I've worked at few cleaning chores and just sitting and enjoying the sun.

The following rhodies are in bloom:

- R. mucronulatum "Cornell Pink"
- R. valaspis
- R. spicil
- R. chrysodonon His Lordship
- R. winter sun
- R. Meadow Gold
- R. praecox
- R. Snow Lady
- R. conchita
- R. rubicon
- R. Heart Throb
- R. leucaspis
- R. vietchanum (in the greenhouse).

Yes, spring is here today. But be careful we can still get late frost

If you haven't started, start and finish your first early spring fertilization. Don't forget the dolomite lime,

For those of you who want to try your hand at hybridizing, this is a good time for the early rhodies. On a warm day just dab some pollen from one plant on to the seed parent and hope for the best.

It's also time to start baiting for slugs and snails. Rake dead leaves and debris from under plants to prevent hiding places.

New Project – members of our chapter will be meeting with Bandon's Parks and Recreation group and discuss the possibilities of offering to do a project in Bandon City Park by planting about a half dozen or so rhodies. The time and place have not been set yet, but we will keep you posted. Your participation is welcome.

Hinsdale Update – Gordon Wylie and I have discussed the possibility of having an open garden day in May, We will keep you posted.



Shared Photos

Photos courtesy of Ray Lee & Bob MacIntyre



Future Events

- 2012 March — Robin Hansen—Cyclamen
- April — Jim Smith, Show Preparation and Judging
- April 28-29 —Southwestern Oregon Flower Show
- May 4-8—ARS Annual Convention, Asheville, NC
- May—Marie Woodward—Dahlias
- Sept. 21-23—Western Regional, Coast Bastion Inn, Nanaimo, BC

