



Southwestern Oregon Chapter

AMERICAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

WWW.SWOREGON-ARS.ORG/

OCTOBER 2013

October Program

Tim Walsh will share information on the Humboldt Botanical Gardens, Eureka, CA

Meeting Time/Place

October 17 — 7:00 pm
N. Bend Housing Authority
1700 Monroe Street
North Bend

Pre Meeting Dinner— 5:00 pm

Tai's Dynasty
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President's Message

Liz Hultin

Another year of meetings and activities is beginning. It was great that so many of you came to the cutting party hosted by Ann Drake and her son, Michael. There were some new faces too. We hope to continue to see those faces at future meetings. Thank you Ann and Michael for providing such a lovely and gracious accommodation for us as you have for so many years.

Your board met September 14th to discuss business and plan activities. Some items such as record keeping and harassment liability insurance, brought to our attention by ARS, were tabled until after the national ARS meeting. We will base our chapter's response to these issues on the national's discussions and decisions. One thing we did vote on and pass was to recommend that the American Rhododendron Society not change its name to reflect its world-wide membership. The expense of a name change was the main consideration.

This fall I am planning to gather Occidentale seed and grow it. I would be most happy to share some seed. I would also like to continue sharing extra plants of all kinds at the meetings. I have several varieties of Crocosmia, Lucifer (a red) and a yellow. They are not as invasive as the common orange.

Tom and I are cleaning out a small fiberglass greenhouse in preparation for tearing it down. It is most likely at least 35 years old and repairing the surface is not worth the cost and effort. The amount of stuff that can be shoved in and forgotten is amazing. Of course I realize that none of you hoard chemical containers with an inch of product left or old gloves with no mate (mostly right handed), but I must admit I have. There are also containers that have lost labels, hazardous dump here we come. Now to reorganized what I am saving with a resolve to keep it better organized.

Looking foreword to seeing all of you in October. I resolve to be well organized in the coming year.

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Deer Repellant Update

Alton Dohner

Several of us have had problems with Plantskydd plugging the sprayer. Now we know the problem and the solution. A sales representative recently told Jeff at 101 Plants and Things that the blood is clotting. The remedy is to dissolve two aspirin tablets in water and add when you add water to the powder. I tried it with some old aspirin (smelled like vinegar) and had to use 3 tablets.

For those who don't want to use smelly sprays there is an alternative – milk. According to one internet posting, deer do not like the taste or smell of milk after they are weaned. One person recommended sprinkling powdered milk on trees, shrubs and plants on a routine basis. (I would do this when the leaves have some moisture on them and am not sure how this would stand in to the rainy season.) Powdered milk won't harm your plants, or deter pollinators from them.

There are numerous recipes for home made deer repellents on the internet. Many of these use eggs (beaten and strained or blended) plus milk, buttermilk, sour milk, or yogurt, cayenne or hot pepper sauce, cooking oil, and liquid dish soap. Some add oil of clove, oil of cinnamon, or oil of eucalyptus. Crushed garlic is optional. Randomizing the bad tastes will help confuse the deer. Most of these recommend spraying every 2 to 4 weeks.

Personally, because of experience, I will use Plantskydd for the winter and several others alternately during growing season.

Late Blooming Occidentale from Ray & Jan Lee's yard



Our Cutting Party

Photos by Ray Lee



Ann's Corner

Ann Drake

The rhododendron *r. spinuliferum* is in several of our members' gardens. It is almost always an entrant in our flower shows frequently winning trophies. It was the Best in Show truss for our friend Ziggy Ziegelmaier from Florence one year. He always brings trusses to our show. It is a leggy plant and is about 10 feet tall growing up in a dogwood in this garden. We learned after planting it that you should not plant rhododendrons very close to a tree; however it seems to manage giving us a display every year.

There are a number of crosses created using *r. spinuliferum*. Razorbill, one of my favorites, is a frequent winner in our shows. Other *spinuliferum* crosses also seen in our flower shows are: Seta and Ann Carey. *Spinulosum*, Crossbill, Waxbill and Wheatear are more crosses. Peter Cox of Scotland is responsible for several of these. Maybe some of these will show up at the plant sale at the conference in Newport. Something to look for. Sonoma Horticultural Nursery & Gardens in Sebastopol, California has a nice website with a catalog. Found several nice things. The only problem with this venue is that they do not ship so if you have an occasion to travel in that direction this is a nice visit.



Photos by Garth Wedemire. Obtained from hirsutuminfo

A lively group of about 24 people took part in our cutting party. There were at least 4 newcomers including one of the children, Mariana Hayden, who took part in our flower show. Bob MacIntyre had arranged for the judges to judge about 6 entrants at the show. They were awarded ribbons and each one received an azalea as a trophy contributed by Dave and Kath Collier. She took cuttings and planted them. Favorite selections were Coastal Spice, Else Frye. Members brought cuttings to share. One new one to me was Nightwatch, a cross of cupcake and Purple Splendor. Alas I have lost it. It was a perfect day to share and learn and enjoy a repast of salads and desserts.

Plant Auction

Pete Baumer

Pete's surprise!!

As of the publishing of the newsletter, Pete had not decided which plants to bring for auction.
So come be surprised.



Razorbill—One of Ann's favorite crosses of *spinuliferum*

Photo by Jens Birck, Kastrup, Denmark

Future Events

- 2013 Nov. 21— Loren Russell on rock gardens
- Dec - annual holiday potluck
- 2014 May 15-18, International Convention, Cleveland, OH
- Sept. 26-28, Western Regional Conference, Everett, WA