



Rhododendron occidentale

OCCIDENTALE

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE DE ANZA CHAPTER,
AMERICAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

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MAY 2011

Welcome to the **MAY 2011** 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,
MAY 18TH, 7:30 TO 9 PM
Hillview Community Center
Room 12
97 Hillview Av., Los Altos**

**MEETING TOPIC: Creating A Rhododendron Garden & Enhancing It With
Companion Plantings**

SPEAKER: Bee Brown of our DeAnza Chapter

Bee & her husband Paul got involved in the Rhododendron Society over 20 years ago when they bought a home in the redwoods on Skyline Drive. The property was virtually derelict and completely devoid of any landscaping. But the terrain, according to Bee, was clearly rhododendron country – “deep in the redwoods, often foggy, with areas of deep redwood duff”. Later Bee and Paul moved down the hill to Portola Valley. Here her passion for rhododendrons and gardening continues and is clearly seen in the spectacular garden we get to visit periodically for chapter functions. Her talk will be about how they landscaped their properties, with a focus on companion plants which include shrubs, perennials and ground covers.

A HUGE THANK YOU TO BELINDA & BURT BRENT

And

MARK DAVIS

For hosting a fabulous, as usual, spring Garden Party on May 1st

SHOW & TELL

In keeping with Bee's talk about companion plants, please bring your favorite rhododendron companion plant to share. Broadening our knowledge and getting new ideas for more beautiful and creative gardens is always a good thing.

MAINTENANCE

After the blooms start to fade, don't neglect to snap off the spent blooms. You'll want your plant's energy going into producing new green growth and hopefully flowers for next year, but not seed production. Consider tip pruning single shoots for a bushier plant. Although we have had a wet winter, don't be lulled into thinking that you don't have to water. A couple of days of 70+ degrees, plus dry and windy weather will dry out the soil, wilting blooms and tender new growth. Don Wallace of Singing Tree Nursery feeds his rhodies on Father's Day; because we're further south, you might think about feeding your plants over the Memorial Day week-end.

MEETING & ACTIVITY SCHEDULE FOR 2010 / 2011 SEASON

May 18th Bee Brown will speak on Companion Plants

June 18th Annual End of Season Meeting & Pot Luck @ Bee Brown's Home in Portola Valley

SEE YOU AT THE MEETING ON WEDNESDAY EVENING, MAY 18TH

Erika Enos - newsletter editor