



*Rhododendron occidentale*

# OCCIDENTALE

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE DE ANZA CHAPTER,  
AMERICAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

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APR 2018

**Welcome** to the **APR. 2018** 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: APRIL 18th, 7:30 to 9 PM**

**MEETING TOPIC: SF Botanical Garden Rhododendron Collection**

**SPEAKER: Jason Martinez**

Jason has been a horticulturalist at the SF Botanical Garden for over 12 years, caring for the Rhododendron, Mediterranean and Ancient Plant Gardens. Jason will update us on current developments and new additions to the Gardens, as well as the South East Asia Collection. Jason will also share some photos of the 2017 Rhododendron Symposium at the Rhododendron Species Foundation and last year's ARS Convention in Eureka. Jason is an excellent speaker & great photographer.

We will also make plans for our annual Plant Sale on the 21<sup>st</sup>. Please come so you can find out what your duties will be.

This month's pre-meeting dinner is **PIZZA** in our meeting room 18. Dinner with Pizza, Salad, Desserts plus liquid refreshments starts at **6pm**

**Bringers of desserts this month: Erika Enos, Anne Gazenbeek**

## SHOW & TELL

Bring what's blooming in your gardens to share – there should be LOTS!

## MAINTENANCE

Bruce Palmer, last month's speaker & former Biology professor at the Univ. of Hawaii has given some cautions about overuse of Epsom salts as fertilizer. He said to watch out for Aluminum in the Epsom salts. Many bags sold don't have aluminum but some do (Dr. Teal's from Costco does not). Aluminum is very toxic to plants and does not break down in the soil. Magnesium gets absorbed but Aluminum does not. North American plants have no way to take up this extra aluminum: consequently it builds up and could probably kill your plant. Magnesium gets absorbed but Aluminum does not. He recommends adding Epsom Salts (which is Magnesium Sulfate) sparingly and perhaps not every year. The Rose Society recommends only tablespoon per plant. Sulfate can be injurious to plants as well, particularly if there is too much of it. It is suggested you read your bag to make sure what it says and go lightly on the applications.

## Meeting & Activity Schedule for 2017 / 2018 Season

Mar 21 <sup>st</sup>	Rhododendron Genus Naming w/Ruth & Bruce Palmer
Apr 18 <sup>th</sup>	Plant Sale Planning & Strybing Arboretum Talk w/Jason Martinez
May 12 <sup>th</sup>	Field Trip to Sonoma Hort. & Western Hills Garden
June 13 <sup>th</sup>	Year End Meeting & Picnic

## Additional Dates to Mark on your Calendars

Apr 17 <sup>th</sup>	UC Santa Cruz Arboretum Spring Sale
<b>Apr 21<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>De Anza Chapter Annual Sale, Los Altos Masonic Lodge</b>
Apr 27-29 <sup>th</sup>	Eureka Chapter Show & Sale
Apr 28 <sup>th</sup>	Monterey Chapter Sale, Aptos Farmers Market, Cabrillo College
Apr 28 <sup>th</sup>	Los Altos Garden Club Plant Exchange 10-12 Hillview Soccer Field
Apr 29 <sup>th</sup>	UC Berkeley Spring Plant Sale
May 4 <sup>th</sup>	Strybing Annual Plant Sale
May 5 <sup>th</sup>	Noyo Chapter Show & Sale

Do you know of any gardening related events members would like to know about, please share

See you Wed the 18<sup>st</sup> – Remember New Room #18

*Erika Enos – newsletter editor*