

OCCIDENTALE

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE DE ANZA CHAPTER,
AMERICAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY



Rhododendron occidentale

President:	Alma Fletcher.....almawfletcher@gmail.com
Vice President:	Nan Ray.....nanray34@gmail.com
Newsletter Editor:	Erika Enos.....dble11@yahoo.com
Secretary:	Erika Enos.....dble11@yahoo.com
Treasurer:	Christie Hartsell.....christy.b.hartsell@gmail.com
Membership:	Pat Ley.....ley.pat@gmail.com@gmail.com
Refreshment:	Joe Randazzo.....via phone
Publicity:	Mike McCullough.....mcculloughm@earthlink.net

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FEBRUARY 2016

Welcome to the FEB 2016 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.

FEB 17th 2016

7:30 pm to 9:00 pm*

**Room 12 Hillview Com Ctr
97 Hillview Av, Los Altos**

Full color copy of the newsletter is available via email subscription or on our website:
<http://www.deanza-ars.com/>

***NOTE: our meetings are starting @ 7:30**

MEETING TOPIC: BEES

SPEAKER: Richard Baxter

Richard Baxter, owner of Golden Harvest Bees, will speak to us about bees in general. This will include our native bees and their importance as pollinates. He has been in this business for most of his life and he specializes in local raw honey at his store. He raises his own bees and stresses the medicinal importance of honey. He distributes to such store as Draeger's. If the timing is right, he might bring a hive to show but will also instruct anyone who wants to know on the keeping of bees. This should be an interesting and informative program for us, so please be sure to attend.

Nan Ray & the Board put in a lot of time & effort providing interesting and relevant topics for our membership meetings. Please show your appreciation by showing up

Join other members and our speaker for a pre-meeting dinner @ 5:00 pm @ Pompeii Restaurant, 100 State Street, Los Altos. Contact Pat Ley(ley.pat@gmail.com) by Tues the 16th to reserve your spot @ the rhodie table.



SHOW & TELL

—We will participate with the Camellia Society in manning a booth @ the **March SF Flower Show**. There will be 3 hour shifts to sign up for. Admission to the Show will be free, but not the parking. Please participate in this important venue for promoting knowledge and enjoyment of rhododendrons to the general public. Email Meg Milani to sign up: mmilanissfhs@yahoo.com

MAINTENANCE

Don Wallace of SingingTree Gardens counsels us about fertilizing in a recent newsletter. Mid-Feb is one of the 2 times a year he fertilizes his plants. This feeding should be high in potasseum (middle letter in NPK formula) to promote bigger flowers (and we all want big flowers). Here is a quick & easy check for soil acidity: Put some of your garden soil in a small container; pour some vinegar on it. If it fizzes - you have acidic soil. Take another small amount soil & put it in a small container. Add some baking soda mixed with water; if it fizzes - your soil is alkeline. If your soil doesn't fizz in either experiment, your soil is neutral. For rhodies & azaleas you need your soil to be slightly acidic. I found this experiment on the internet - so you know it must be true ;)

2015/2016 MEETING SCHEDULE

- Feb 17th The Bee Guy - Info about the state of bees
- Mar 16th Tree Maintenance - John McClenahan of McClenahan Tree Service
- Apr 20th Prep for Plant Sale & Member mini-show - bring your trusses
- Apr 23rd DeAnza Chapter Plant Sale
- May 18th T B D - possible field trip to Monte Toyon Gardens
- June ? End of Season Meeting & Picnic

Additional Dates to Mark on your Calendars

- *Mar 16th - 20th San Francisco Flower Show, San Mateo Event Center, San Mateo
- *Apr 2nd Cal Chapter Show & Sale, Oakland
- *Apr 23rd DeAnza Annual Plant Sale

Erika Enos, Newsletter Editor