



# OCCIDENTALE



## THE NEWSLETTER OF THE DE ANZA CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

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**NEXT MEETING: FEB., 19th, 2020 (7:30 to 9 pm)**  
**LOS ALTOS MASONIC HALL, 146 Main St, LA**  
**(we can access building from parking lot in the back)**

**OUR SPEAKER: MIKE BOSS, New Owner of Sonoma Hort**  
**TOPIC: The Evolution of Sonoma Horticultural Nursery**

After moving to San Francisco & working at Strybing, Mike founded Rock & Rose Landscapes, one of the Bay Area's leading design, build, & care garden companies. In 2017 Mike purchased Sonoma Hort from Polo, rescuing it from real estate developers (we are all grateful for that). Mike will share his plans for the nursery which include continuing to grow Rhodies and Azaleas and expanding his offerings of shade-loving plants. He is also very excited to be offering a new line of long-lived edibles: trees, shrubs, and herbaceous perennials: plants that one can build a garden with, that will not only add structure and texture to a garden, but also food, tea, herbs, and medicines. Great News: Mike will bring plants for our auction.

If you'd like to join fellow members and our guest speaker at the pre-meeting dinner @ 5:30PM @ Pompeii Restaurant, 100 State St, Los Altos, please contact Pat Ley ([ley.pat@gmail.com](mailto:ley.pat@gmail.com) or 650-941-1674) by Tues @ 5:30, to reserve your spot at the rhodie table.

Bringers of goodies this month: Mary Ann Young & Cheri Jensen  
**SHOW & TELL**

Do you have small flower vases you no longer use & would like to donate to a worthy cause? "Blooms" a group who delivers small fresh bouquets of flowers to patients in hospitals & nursing homes is looking for vase donations. If you have any you no longer need/use, please bring them to the meeting Wed night.. Patty Hartsell will gladly take them off your hands.

**MAINTENANCE**

To green up your plants, Don Wallace, my plant guru, advises to put out some epsom salts (magnesium sulfate) -a couple of tablespoons per plant- around the drip line of each plant. When plant leaves are analysed for chemical content, Magnesium is found to be the element of highest concentration. Magnesium is also connected to chlorophyll in plant leaves. This is why when plants get more magnesium the leaves darken...the chlorophyll is increased. And, when a plant has more chlorophyll, it can get more energy from sunlight, making a stronger plant. If you have plants with yellow leaves, you can mix 2 tablespoons of Epsom Salts with 1 gallon of water and use as a foliar spray. Leaves should be darker green in a few days.

I look forward to getting Don's weekly email showcasing his nursery plants for sale and valuable maintenance advice. His photography is fabulous & the descriptions of his plants are detailed. His plants, which include conifers, heathers and trees range from the standards to the unusual. Singing Tree is worth a look & purchase to help keep independent nurseries viable.

**Meeting & Activity Schedule for 2019 - 2020 Season**

- FEB 19: Mike Boss on Evolution of Sonoma Hort
- MAR 18: Jason Martinez
- APR: 4 Annual Plant Sale
- APR 15: Butterflies
- MAY 3 & 10: 2 days of field trips to Monte Toyon
- JUN ? : End of Season Meeting & Picnic

The first picture on the right is not an exotic flower but Cheriell's beautiful fruit salad which we relished at our Holiday Party in Dec.

The Vireas are Christy's

**See You Wed evening the 19th of Feb - erika enos**

