

OCCIDENTALE

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE DE ANZA CHAPTER,
AMERICAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY



Rhododendron occidentale

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The Newsletter of the De Anza Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society

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JANUARY 2016

Welcome to the JAN 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.

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

JAN 20th 2016

7 pm to 8:30 pm

Room 12 Hillview Com Ctr
97 Hillview Av, Los Altos

MEETING TOPIC: Japanese Maple Care
SPEAKER: Arnie Cornez

Again this year, we are fortunate to have Arnie Cornez, Japanese Maple expert, speak to us about these companions to rhododendrons and stalwarts of our gardens. His hands on demonstration for pruning and shaping, using various tools: pruners, saws and loppers, is always very enlightening. Pruning can be intimidating, but Arnie makes it look easy,logical and do-able by all of us.

Arnie teaches in the Horticultural Program @ Foothill College, and is a pruner @ Hakone Gardens in Saratoga, Gamble Gardens in Palo Alto, and various estates on the SF peninsula.

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) or Erika (double11@yahoo.com) by Tues the 19th to reserve your spot @ the rhodie table.



SHOW & TELL

The DeAnza Board met on Sat Jan 9th to discuss various topics and plan the remainder of the season. The Board voted in the following:

- In Feb meetings will revert back to 7:30 start time unless opposed by membership
- We will have a table for trusses @ the Feb Camellia Show
- 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.

MAINTENANCE

We have had several frosty nights recently and the cold nights are probably not over yet. The leaves of rhododendrons tend to droop and curl during cold periods. Is this a bad thing; an indication that plants are in distress/dying? The exact opposite is true. Rhodies droop their leaves - a process called "thermotrophic movement" as a way of reducing the amount of leaf exposed to sunlight. Since too much direct sunlight during a cold spell can cause photosynthetic damage (burn), curling allows the leaf to thaw & recover from the cold more slowly, and therefore reduce potential sun damage. So when you see your plant's leaves curl and droop during winter cold spells, know that your plants are protecting themselves and not withering away.

2015/2016 MEETING SCHEDULE

- Jan 20th Arnie Kornez - More about Japanese Maples
- Feb 17th The Bee Guy - Info about the state of bees
- Mar 16th Tree Maintenance - John McClenahan of McClenahan Tree Service
- Apr ? DeAnza Chapter Plant Sale
- Apr 20th T B D /
- 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

- *Feb 13th & 14th Camellia Society Show & Sale 1400 Roosevelt, Redwood City
- *Mar 16th - 20th San Francisco Flower Show, San Mateo Event Center, San Mateo
- *Apr 2nd Cal Chapter Show & Sale, Oakland

Erika Enos, Newsletter Editor