



Rhododendron occidentale

OCCIDENTALE

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE DE ANZA CHAPTER,
AMERICAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

President:	Bee Brown.....beebrown01@gmail.com
Vice President:	Nan Ray.....nanray@earthlink.net
Newsletter Editor:	Erika Enos.....dble11@yahoo.com
Secretary:	Christy Hartsell.....christy.b.hartsell@lmco.com
Treasurer:	Mary Tye.....mjtye@hotmail.com
Membership:	Alma Fletcher.....almawfletcher@gmail.com
Refreshment:	Tom Wynn.....wynn.t@comcast.net
Publicity:	Mike McCullough.....mcculloughm@earthlink.net



Bd. Members: Ann Gazenbeek, Vic Hesterman, Pat Ley, Karina Nilsen, Joe Randazzo, Bob Weissman, Tom Wynn

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

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MARCH 2011

Welcome to the **March 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,
MARCH 16TH, 7:30 TO 9 PM
Hillview Community Center
Room 12
97 Hillview Av., Los Altos**

MEETING TOPIC: Aesthetic Pruning of Japanese Maples & other Plants

SPEAKER: Bruce Andrews of Grateful Gardens Landscaping Co.

Bruce studied in the Landscape Architecture and Design Programs at the University of California at Berkeley. He has worked in landscape design, building, and maintenance throughout the South Bay since 1975. In 1998 he launched his own company, Grateful Gardens and has worked extensively on both the old, established gardens of the Folger, Elkus, and Baldwin estates, and on smaller landscape projects and maintenance. While very familiar with California native plants, microclimates, and water conservation, Bruce's expertise is aesthetic pruning of trees and shrubs, especially Japanese Maples. We will have a hands on demonstration of his pruning techniques, plus advice and tips on rhododendron pruning, specific to our micro climate. Because pruning is something we know the importance of but are reluctant to take on, this will be a very informative talk.

Join other members for a special pre-meeting dinner @ 5:30 PM
@ Pompeii Restaurant, 100 State St, Los Altos, (across from CITI Bank Plaza)
Call or email Erika Enos to reserve your place by Tuesday, MARCH. 15th @ 5:30 PM
(dble11@yahoo.com or 650-493-6677)

Bringers of goodies this month: Christy Hartsell

We need refreshment volunteers (2) for **May** - let me know @ the meeting

The nominating committee has proposed a slate of officers for the coming year, & we will put them forth in our next meeting. We still need board members. If you would like to become more active in the Society, but feel that an officer position is more than you'd like to handle just yet, becoming a Board Member may be just the right level of commitment. Board membership will make you more familiar with the running of the Society, and help distribute the work and responsibilities of officers. **Volunteering is a good thing.**

MARCH MEETING

For our March meeting, Nan Ray will lead a short discussion about why certain rhododendrons just don't perform (grow, bloom) as they're supposed to. Please email Nan (nanray@earthlink.net) a list of your 5 "worst performer" loser plants. We'll compare notes to see if failure is because of us or the plant.

SHOW & TELL

Now that our gardens are filling with blooms, please, bring in a truss to share so the rest of us can visit your garden during our monthly meeting. On a separate note, Howard Oliver's old home in Menlo Park came on the market on Tues (3-8). I went through it and while most of the rhodies are not in bloom or gone, his camellias & magnolias are in full glorious bloom. Open House on Sunday: 550 St Francis Pl, Menlo Park

MAINTENANCE

Now is the time to enjoy the fruits, or should I say, blooms of our labors. We have had a wet winter so don't be lulled into thinking that we don't have to water. A couple of days of 70+ degree dry and windy weather will dry out the soil and wilt blooms.

MEETING & ACTIVITY SCHEDULE FOR 2010 / 2011 SEASON

Mar 16 th	Discussion of rhodie "losers" and Japanese Maple Pruning Demo
April 20 th	Bob Weissman on the 2010 International Convention in Germany
April 16 th	Plant Sale
May 18 th	TBD
June 18 th	Annual End of Season Meeting & Pot Luck @ Bee Brown's Home in Portola Valley

Additional Dates to Mark on your Calendars

MONTHLY STRYBING SALE: March 12th – 10 am to 1 pm - General Sale

SAN FRANCISCO FLOWER SHOW: March 23rd to 27th – San Mateo Event Center

ARS ANNUAL CONVENTION: Vancouver Washington, **May 11-15, 2011** (see ARS Journal for details)

SEE YOU ON WEDNESDAY EVENING, MARCH, 16TH

Erika Enos – newsletter editor