



*Rhododendron occidentale*

## OCCIDENTALE

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE DE ANZA CHAPTER,  
AMERICAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

President: Nan Ray.....nanray@earthlink.net  
Vice President: Christy Hartsell....christy.b.hartsell@gmail.com  
Newsletter Editor: Erika Enos.....dble11@yahoo.com  
Secretary: Erika Enos.....dble11@yahoo.com  
Treasurer: Tom Wynn.....wynn.t@comcast.com  
Membership: Alma Fletcher..... almawfletcher@gmail.com  
Refreshment: Joe Randazzo.....via phone  
Publicity: Mike McCullough.....mcculloughm@earthlink.net

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**Welcome** to the March 2014 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: MARCH 19th,  
7:30 to 9 PM**

**Hillview Community Center  
Room 12  
97 Hillview Av., Los Altos**

**MEETING: Japanese Maples As Garden Features**

**SPEAKER: ARNIE CORNEZ**

*As much as we love our rhododendrons, they are not the only plants in our gardens. We all have companion plants and one of the ones most frequently found in rhododendron gardens are Japanese Maples. Japanese Maples require the same growing conditions as rhododendrons, which make them perfect companion plants. This month, our speaker, Arnie Cornez will discuss Japanese Maples as a garden feature. He will share his expertise on the selection, care, and pruning of these beautiful trees. Arnie is an aesthetic pruner and docent at Hakone Japanese Gardens in Saratoga.*

If you'd like to join fellow members at the pre-meeting dinner @ Pompeii Restaurant in Los Altos Call or email Alma Fletcher by Tues @ 5 pm to reserve a spot @ the "Rhodie Table" [almawfletcher@gmail.com](mailto:almawfletcher@gmail.com). or 650-851-1334

## SHOW & TELL

Our president has put together an informative packet for new members which includes information on the care and feeding of rhodies plus cultural tips and a glossary of horticultural terms. Feel free to ask Nan for a copy.

## MAINTENANCE

**March begins in earnest the best time of the year for rhodie lovers. To ensure your buds will keep swelling and bursting into bloom, don't forget to water. Although we had some rain this last month, we are still experiencing a drought. Hand watering instead of turning on the sprinkler system uses less water and makes you to pay attention to your individual plants. Another great water conserver is mulch: It helps keep evaporation in check and also breaks down slowly to create humus to enrich the soil. Please share your water conservation practices at our meeting.**

**Plus one more thing: Start enjoying your blooms**

## Meeting & Activity Schedule for 2013/ 2014 Season

Mar 19th. Japanese Maples As Garden Features  
Apr 16th. Rebecca Sweet, Landscape Designer  
May 21st. Azaleas @ Nuccio Nursery (pending)  
June ? End of Season Meeting / Pot Luck @ Bee Brown's Home

## Additional Dates to Mark on your Calendars

Mar 19 - 23rd San Francisco Flower & Garden Show, San Mateo Event Center  
April 19th Cal Chapter Sale & Show  
May 10th Annual Plant Sale @ Strybing Botanical Gardens, San Francisco  
May 16 - 18th ARS Annual Convention, Cleveland, Ohio

**SEE YOU AT THE MEETING ON**

**Wednesday, March 19th**

*Erika Enos, Newsletter Editor*

