



*Rhododendron occidentale*

# OCCIDENTALE

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE DE ANZA CHAPTER,  
AMERICAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

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

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**Welcome** to the SEPT 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,**

**SEPTEMBER 21st, 7:30 to 9 PM**

**Hillview Community Center  
Room 12**

**97 Hillview Av., Los Altos**

**MEETING TOPIC: Rooting Cuttings: How to Achieve Success**

**SPEAKER: Dennis Bottemiller of the Species Foundation**

Cutting propagation is a great way to get more of the plants you want and the purpose of this talk is to illustrate some of the variables in plant growth, culture and physiology which can be manipulated to your advantage for greater success in getting cuttings to root. While most work at this garden involves rhododendrons, these principles are important for propagation of most plants that can be grown from cuttings. Dennis Bottemiller has been the Propagator and Nursery Manager for the Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden for about fifteen years where he has been rooting cuttings and growing seedlings of plants from around the world.

Although we will not be doing our annual cuttings propagation meeting this year, if you have cuttings you would like to share / trade, please bring them to the meeting (please label).

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 Alma Fletcher to reserve your place by Tuesday, SEPT 20th @ 5:30 PM  
(almawfletcher@gmail.com or 650-851-1334)

**Bringers of goodies this month: Christy Hartsell & Erika Enos**

We will need refreshment volunteers for each monthly meeting, so we will pass around a sign-up sheet @ this month's meeting.

SHOW & TELL

It's a little early for rhodie blooms, but does anyone have azaleas blooming that they would like to show?

MAINTENANCE

In the summer issue of the ARS Journal there is a great article on controlling powdery mildew on rhododendrons. The article's author uses a foliar spray of magnesium sulfate (epsom salts). Christy translated the formula of this spray into: 5 tablespoons to 1 gal of water. The author sprayed his plants bi-monthly with this mixture for mildew control and indicated in the article that the next year there was "much less than previous years when no protectants and eradicants were used". Epsom salts, sprinkled at the base of rhododendrons, roses and even tomatoes, benefit the growth of these plants. It's good to know that epsom salts also deter diseases. I get my Epsom salts @ Costco.

Meeting & Activity Schedule for 2011 / 2012 Season

Oct 19 <sup>th</sup>	Talk on Butterflies w/Jan Washburn
Nov 16 <sup>th</sup>	TBD
Dec 10 <sup>th</sup>	Holiday Party @ Karina's House in Los Altos
Jan 18 <sup>th</sup>	Tim Walsh
Feb 15 <sup>th</sup>	TBD
Mar 21 <sup>st</sup>	Steve Hootman
April 18 <sup>th</sup>	TBD
May 16 <sup>th</sup>	TBD
June	End of Season Meeting & Pot Luck

Additional Dates to Mark on your Calendars

End of Sept:	Los Altos Garden Club Plant Exchange
Oct 8 <sup>th</sup> :	Strybing Plant Sale: Trees, Ferns & Rhododendrons
Nov 12 <sup>th</sup> :	Strybing Plant Sale: End of Season Sale

SEE YOU AT THE MEETING ON WEDNESDAY EVENING, SEPT 21<sup>TH</sup>

*Erika Enos – newsletter editor*