

Macrophyllum

January 2015

Siuslaw Chapter

American Rhododendron Society

P.O. Box 1701

Florence OR. 97439-0111

WEBSITE: <http://www.siuslawars.org>

Paul Wilson, Webmaster

541-902-9780, siuslawars@me.com



UPCOMING CHAPTER EVENTS:

Meeting topic: Tuesday January 20 2015 ; Steve Hootman from the Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden will talk about “The 2012 Expedition to Sichuan, Guizhou and Guangxi, China.” He will show images of the landscapes and lots of exciting new plants, including never before seen Rhododendron species.

Board Meeting: The Board Will Meet at Sandi and Bill Hennigs’ on Tuesday, January 13th at 6:30.

Chapter Meeting-: The Siuslaw Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society will meet Tuesday, November 18th, at the Presbyterian Church of the Siuslaw, 3669 Highway 101 in Florence, at 6.30 pm for refreshments. The meeting and program to follow at 7 pm. The meeting is free and open to all.

Pre-Meeting Dinner: Dinner this month is at ICM at 5:00 pm before the Rhody meeting. Call or email Rosemary if you plan on attending. [1-541-261-1849](tel:1-541-261-1849) or tonyroosemary@charter.net. Be there for great fun, great food, & great company.

Gallagher Park Work Party: There will be a work party on Thursday January 22nd, at 10 until noon(weather permitting). Any questions call Gene Cockeram at 541-997-2377 or email toflowerman@gmail.com

Cookie Team- Sandi Hennig, Karen Timmons, Sandi Jensen, & Nancy Fullmer



Other Oregon Chapter Meetings

WILLAMETTE CHAPTER : Second Wednesday of the month at 7:00 pm in the Carrier room (Church Street entrance) of the First Methodist Church on the corner of Church and State Streets, Salem.

TUALATIN VALLEY CHAPTER: First Tuesday of the month at 7 pm Washington County Fire District, 31370 NW Commercial Street North Plains, OR Sept., Oct., Nov., Dec. (none in Jan.) Feb., Mar. & Apr.

EUGENE CHAPTER: Campbell Senior Center 155 High Street, Eugene, OR
Second Thursday, Oct to May at 7:30 pm

SIUSLAW CHAPTER: First Presbyterian Church 3996 Highway 101,
Florence, OR, Third Tuesday of the month at 7 pm.

PORTLAND CHAPTER: All Saints Episcopal Church, 4033 SE Woodstock Ave, Portland, OR, Third Thursday September through May, the program begins at 7 pm.

SOUTHWESTERN OREGON: Third Thursday of each Month
Oct -May 6:30 pm Social, 7 pm Meeting, Coos-Curry Housing Authority 1700 Monroe Ave. North Bend, OR



ARS Conferences 2015

May 6-10th, ARS Annual Convention- 70th Anniversary, Sidney, BC Canada



We had such a fun Christmas party, and we were completely surprised by the bronze medals. I'm still not convinced that I deserve one, but Thank You one and all! The next few meetings are sure to interest many of you. January- Steve Hootman, February- David Eckerdt, March- Wild Ginger Farm, April- Auction, and May (I think) Jack Olson. I am reprinting an article from the December 2014 Eugene Chapter newsletter written by Rich Aaring. It is a humorous, but true, look at watering rhododendrons. Food for thought.

How to Kill Rhododendrons - Let me count the ways by Rich Aaring

**How to Kill Rhododendrons - Lesson #17
Don't water them**

We know that pretty much the whole world gets their rain in the summer while we here in the coastal Pacific Northwest get our rain in those seasons that are not summer. Most rhododendron species (and their many hybrid descendants) come from places other than here and as a result are genetically used to getting watered by rain in the summer. If we do not do this they will die. So how do we solve this dilemma? Hand watering with a hose and a light spray nozzle every other day or so works best. The gardener has the opportunity to ascertain the health of each individual plant and water and do any other cultural requirements accordingly. And this does not take very long when the plants are small. But as time goes on this gets old. The next best solution is automated sprinklers. These are the key to happiness and sanity. A system consists usually of a controller that electrically controls valves that send water off in underground pipes to sprinklers carefully located around the yard and garden, first to one zone and after an amount of time that the gardener chooses, on to the next. My own yard has three zones with a small number of

sprinklers that shoot the water out a long ways. A more common approach in the local suburbs is four zones: front lawn, front bed, back lawn and back bed, with many smaller spray heads with overlapping spraying. These are expensive with bids often running about a thousand dollars per zone. But they work pretty well until they don't. A cheaper solution is the inexpensive battery powered timers that screw in between your hose bib and the hose. And you probably already have the hose and sprinkler. This is cheap and easy and not very complicated to quickly put in some before an oncoming trip or vacation. A hybrid I have seen is where the sprinkler installer puts in a controller and then runs underground pipes to various spots and then simply installs a hose bib. This is priced somewhat less than the full system and gives the gardener some flexibility over time on sprinkler type and location. And that is nice, as when plants grow they sometimes will block the spray to other plants. And then those die. I lost a couple that way this year. My system has a hose bib built into the system in each zone. Now a professional installer will probably not do that for you. They will also not usually even install different kinds of sprinklers on the same zone. This is because they are afraid you will then water unevenly and kill plants. But you can change it yourself. And this is desirable because some areas will be just drier than others and this allows you to send a little additional water that direction if needed. I lost a couple that way this year when I didn't notice just how dry and hot a couple of spots had become. Conversely, you can change out to a lower volume sprinkler head if a spot is a little too wet and most of us have a spot or two that are just always wetter than the rest of it. How much water should you put down? Lots, if you have it and can afford it. But this is where you can get sophisticated. The easiest way to measure volume is with a canned tunafish can. Place a few around the garden and then run the sprinklers for five minutes and see how full they get. A rough goal might be an inch per week. Our local community water provider will send you an email telling you how much to water that week as the weather changes which is yet another level of sophistication. Can you water too much? Probably not, if the drainage is perfect. But if the drainage is not absolutely perfect, you will discover ***How to Kill Rhododendrons Lesson #18: Water Too Much.***

How to Kill Rhododendrons - Lesson 18 Water too Much

How often should we water? I water often – several times per week, but not for long. My logic is that rhododendrons are shallow rooted and I only need enough water to get those roots wet. I don't care if the other plants die. And too much water will encourage my Douglas Fir and discourage my Oregon White Oak. Others will tell you to water less often but longer so that the water reaches deeply. They are wiser than I. But I get to spend more money on new plants at the auctions and that is part of the fun of gardening. I turn my system on at the beginning of summer aiming for the day after the last rain – somewhere around July 4th. And this year I turned it off in late September. A more sophisticated gardener would run on a longer season and start with only a little water and increase it as the temperatures increase, maybe even pausing for a few days while a rain front rolls through. And note that all of this is moderated by mulch. Mulch will allow you to err on the side of too much or too little water. Mulch is good. And I hope to have some down before the first of February when the erythroniums start coming up. Shade will do the same thing but instant shade is difficult to acquire. And also note that nurseries water for an additional reason: just to cool the plants down on a hot day. I remember Harold Greer telling me that he was pretty sure that he lost more nursery plants in pots when the temperature of the rootball got above 80 degrees than he did when the rootball got below 20 degrees in the winter. And I too sometimes turn on my sprinklers on a hot afternoon for only that reason. And then I go run through them myself. Why am I writing this now as our rainy season hits full stride? Well, now is when I am pulling out the dead plants and am reminded of my mistakes.



Siuslaw Chapter ARS Mission Statement

The mission of the Siuslaw Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society is to promote the genus Rhododendron by:

- ✓ **Creating enthusiasm for the genus Rhododendron through meetings, shows, publications, and social activities that provide the opportunities for members to share experiences and build friendships.**
- ✓ **Providing educational opportunities to successfully grow and enjoy these wonderful plants.**
- ✓ **Encouraging propagation and hybridizing of species and hybrid rhododendrons.**
- ✓ **Furthering the planting and use of rhododendrons in home, business, and public landscapes.**
- ✓ **Advocating the conservation and preservation of superior plants of our native rhododendrons and the habitat along the Oregon coast.**
- ✓ **Advancing and supporting the mission of the American Rhododendron Society**

Well, the weather outside is cold, cold, cold. However, having been told that I could do a "Collectors Corner", I began to think about what makes the winter cold seem shorter, and I realized that spring bulbs are the answer to that! So I thought which ones? I guess like everything else, I have to say...well, all of them, of course! I love to see the cheerful crocus, but the rodents love to dig them

up and eat them.

The perky little snow bells are such a harbinger of spring, but I think my favorites are the narcissus. Also known as daffodils!



The earliest that we seem to see here are usually in early to mid-February. The best thing about them is that they multiply like crazy, and do not seem to be bothered by deer or rodents. Some are very fragrant, and all seem to do well as cut flowers. The bloom time seems to extend into late April, and sometimes even early May. By then, so many other things are blooming that the withering blooms, and foliage are not mourned for long. Tulips are another spring bloomer that I am just learning to grow. For me they do much better in pots, but I need to be careful. I left some out last winter during our 0 degrees, and they turned to mush. I'm certain that they would do fine in those temps in the soil, but like crocus, everything likes to eat them. Including toddlers!

If you need a pick-me-up, and you are internet savvy, just google the bulbs by name, then click on images. It does a plant nuts' soul good!



January 2015 Presidents Message; by Larry Jensen

I hope everyone had a great Christmas. Our Christmas potluck was well attended with a lot of great food and a chance to visit with our rhododendron friends. Sandi and I were pleasantly surprised with the bronze medals and wish to thank everyone.

Some people doubt our sanity when it comes to putting up our Christmas lights, but at 75% off, I just had to buy more.

With all of the rain that we have had, those of you in very sandy soil (or lack thereof) should probably be considering applying a little fertilizer.

This month we are lucky to have Steve Hootman as our speaker. For those of you who may not know. He is the curator of the Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden in Federal Way Washington. His topic is the 2012 China expedition to collect seeds, and plant material. His talks are always very interesting and usually include insight into the local people & politics. The transportation there is frequently primitive in comparison to what we are used to here. Our chapter is a member of the Species Foundation, which will gain you free admission. All you have to do is travel to Federal Way (just north of Tacoma WA). This is a marvelous garden with the best collection of Rhododendron species in the world. They also grow, and showcase many other plants including ferns, lilies, primroses, and poppies. The garden is home to some beautiful trees as well. They have a gift shop, filled with wonderful artistic articles& books and is completed with a plant sale area outside the gift shop. It is one of my very favorite places to visit.

The weather guessers say you should have temperatures as low as 24, with ours about 10 degrees cooler. We spent several hours moving potted plants into protected areas getting ready for the chill. I hope we remembered everything, and I also hope the guessers are wrong!

We'll be looking forward to seeing you all on January 20th. The pre-meeting dinner is at ICM, call Rosemary to reserve a seat. The board meeting is at Sandi and Bill Hennig's on January 13th at 6:30. There will also be a pre-show meeting at Mike and Kathy Bones home on January 27th. LJ

Chapter Contacts

President: Larry Jensen

541-935-2482

sfuchsia@gmail.com

Vice-President: Bill Hennig

541-997-2489

just1more@q.com

Secretary: Sandi Hennig

541-997-2489

flendish@q.com

Treasurer: JoAnn Wilson

541-902-9780

nanabanana@oregonfast.net

Past President Mike Bones

541-997-3082

rhodies@charter.net

Board Members:

Gene Cockeram

541-997-2377

toflowerman@gmail.com

Terry Talbot

541-991-9089

talbot52@oregonfast.net

Jim Smith

541-268-6821

rhodysmith@live.com

Book Chair Person : JoAnn Wilson

Store/ Clothing: JoAnn Wilson

541-902-9780

nanabanana@oregonfast.net

Historian: **VACANT**

Sunshine: Sandi Hennig

541-997-2489

flendish@q.com

Hospitality: Dan Bones

541-999-4614

Newsletter Editor: Sandi Jensen

541-505-4246

sfuchsia@gmail.com

Karen Timmons

541-997-2480

kltimmons4@gmail.com

Publicity: Jenny Velinty

541-997-7573

jenvel@oregonfast.net

Dinner co-ordinators :

Rosemary Rebello

541-261-1849

tonyroosemary@charter.net

& Sandi Hennig

541-997-2489

flendish@q.com

Jerry Christean is doing better every day, and would like to thank everyone who has called, visited, brought food, and sent cards. He says "rhody people are the very best!"

~~~~~



Here are a couple pictures of the macrophyllums in front of our front deck this past spring. My dad was a log truck driver, and when the logging crew would push the rhodies up in piles on landings, he would bring them home and share. I did not take very good care of them to begin with, but they have survived in spite of me. When Larry began to care for them, they flourished! This proves how tough, resilient, diverse in color, and beautiful the species rhodies can be! Especially our native macrophyllum!



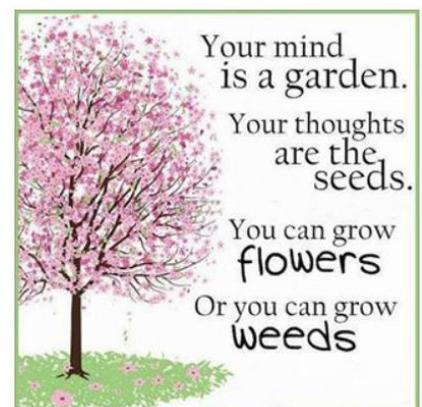
What a beautiful bouquet of hydrangeas at the cutting exchange/ potluck in late August at the home of Ann Drake .



These two beauties I shot at the Gerdemann Preserve in Yachats at the end of June. The top one is in the vireya house there, and the other is a sanguineum. Such a pretty late bloomer!



This is a picture from the plant game at one of our potlucks. What fun!



I love this sentiment. We had such a great year in 2014 and I'm looking forward to an even better year in 2015! Happy New Year to you all!