





**My mother always told me- “Never leave home without your patience.”**

Anonymous



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.

**Dear Dr. Rhody,**

I have a question concerning some of my Rhododendrons. Last summer I watered and fertilized my plants faithfully. They were very healthy and really looked great. During the fall I was pleased to see many, many flower buds for the next spring. Last week as I was cleaning up some branches from a wind storm I noticed several flower buds had turned brown and looked bad. What caused the buds to become discolored? Were the buds diseased or attacked by a bug? Is it possible the buds that are brownish will bloom? Help!

**Budding Gardner**

**Dear Budding Gardner,**

It is possible some pests have attacked your flower buds. However, I believe that once again the weather is the cause of your problem. We had a very early cold spell this past autumn. The temperature at my house dropped from 65 degrees Saturday afternoon to 25 degrees on Monday morning. The plants were actually trying to produce growth and winter dormancy had not yet begun. I believe the plants had no chance to become winter hardy and the sudden drop in temperature actually destroyed the flower buds. When this occurs you don't always become aware of it immediately. It takes some time for the damage to become visible. If I have correctly guessed the cause of your problem there is very little you can do to prevent future occurrences. If only a few varieties of your plants were affected you might consider moving them to a more sheltered spot such as under a tree canopy. If the plants were newly planted this year they may not have been acclimated to the area and needed more time to become winter hardy.

To improve the look of your plants now you can certainly remove the dead bloom buds. If part of the stem is dying too, cut it back and it will improve the look this year, and also will cause your plant to be bushier next year.

Good Luck, **Dr. Rhody**

**PS** Remember if you have questions or problems send them to Dr.Rhody at [rhodysmith@live.com](mailto:rhodysmith@live.com)



**Meet our newest member Kathryn Walbom!**

I studied ornamental horticultural at Utah State University in 1980 and Occupational Therapy at Salt Lake City's Community College and then applied for and received my Horticultural Therapy certification in 1996. I then developed "Everythinggrows" a program bringing success oriented gardening groups to nursing homes, assisted living centers and in our own award winning gardens.

My husband, Kregg and I moved here last spring from Utah where rhody's were rarely grown and when our home was amazingly surrounded by massive rhododendrons in full bloom, I knew the Rhododendron Society was just the place to fill the gaps in my knowledge.



 *Happy Valentines Day* 



**The surest way to make yourself happy, is to make someone else happy.**



## Member Profile by Larry Jensen

The editor has been after me to write a member profile for a few years. Who, me procrastinate? Last year 'The Sandis' decided to write one for me. Their version, while more interesting, was a bit off the mark. So, here goes.

My father was a surveyor during WWII and they were building an airport in Port Orford, so that was where I was born. We settled in Coquille a short time later and he went to work for the State Park system. When I was old enough to remember, he had become the State Park supervisor from the California border north to Newport. While we were living in Coquille we spent many days at Sunset Bay, and Shore Acres Parks. I grew up admiring the mature hybrids at Shore Acres. Present day they have added many bigleaf varieties, most of which are species.

My parents divorced in the 1950s' and we moved to the Eugene area. We only lived in town for about a year and then moved to the country. I started construction work after high school, thinking I would go to college later. I found that I was really good at (and enjoyed) what I was doing. I took some classes and entered the apprenticeship training program at LCC.

During the winter of '64-'65 I met Sandi and the rest is history. I got drafted in '65 and was lucky enough to get assigned to the Arctic Test Center at Ft. Greeley, south of Fairbanks in interior Alaska. I soon developed a love for Alaska and have been back about 20 times. There are a couple native species there, even one in Denali Park. While we were at the Anchorage Botanical Garden they were selling some of the Scandinavian hybrids.

In 1995, I was bidding some storm damage next to Hendricks Park and saw a blooming rhododendron in the distance. This was in early February, so I went to check it out. It was *r. ririei*, and I went to Greer's Nursery and bought one. I started collecting plants, building trails and planting. I met Jim Smith at Roadside Rhododendrons, and he told us about the Siuslaw rhodie club which we ended up joining. After joining the ARS and then the RSBG, I learned to appreciate the species and have a number which are my favorites. The hybrids are nice in the spring when they have their pretty blooms. I make a cross now and then, but I'm not a very serious hybridizer. At the present time I have between 600 and 1,000 plants scattered over our hillside.

Sandi and I are fairly active in the Siuslaw Chapter. Their meetings are on Tuesday which is the only day during the week we don't have other commitments. (so, THAT'S what you call our grandchildren!)

Sandi was lacking inspiration, so I figured I had better put this together for her. Now it's your turn! Larry Jensen



Here is a picture at the entrance of Gallagher's Park on May 2<sup>nd</sup> 2014. We have such a gem in our city. We all need to work to maintain it, and you are always rewarded with more than a few tickets for the raffle. The beauty there, and the chance to keep it beautiful are just one of the rewards. Working with other members there is rewarding too!



The president hasn't sent in a message, so I guess it is up to me as vp to write a message. I have had a number of thoughts rumbling around in my brain, but sometimes have a difficult time getting them onto the page. One of my thoughts is that as editor, I have done a poor job introducing new members to the membership via the newsletter. I am hoping to interview a few of the members who have joined during the last year. However, I'll start with our newest member, Kathryn (Kathy) Walbom. I will put her biography in another part of the newsletter.

Dan Bones keeps texting me and telling me about the plants he sees blooming. I wish I had the time to go to Florence to take pictures of all the early bloomers! He says that Christmas Cheer, Cornubia, Lee's Scarlet, and Seta all look good.



Seta

Sure, just make me jealous! With our colder temperatures, ours are not blooming quite yet. Just ririei, and anything that is open will probably frost soon. We generally lose most of our early open blooms to the frost. I can't seem to find the pictures I thought I had of Cornubia.



R. ririei

I had taken pictures of it at Gallagher's Park, but of course I can't find them. Just imagine a really pretty red that does not like the cold, but has a long bloom time. Or you could go down to Gallagher's Park and help with the clean up on the Wednesday following the meeting, weather permitting and take a look. There are all sorts of plants that bloom early in the park. The weather has not been conducive to clean up the park for a while, so I know it is going to need a lot of TLC. Remember, when you work at the park, you get 6 free tickets for the raffle drawing at the following meeting.

Larry mentioned that it was almost time to fertilize for the first time here. On the coast some people have already begun, but with our colder temps, we need to wait a bit. I'm told that Mike Bones has the Greer formula rhodie fertilizer for sale. His contact info is at the end of the newsletter under chapter contacts, or ask him at the meeting.

Our speaker this month is the world renowned Harold Greer. He has been growing, showing, photographing, hybridizing, and writing books about rhododendrons since he was a teenager.

Greer's Guide to Available Rhododendrons has become a staple in our home, and I can hardly wait for him to write the sequel. Don't miss his presentation on "**Rhododendrons, the World in Your Garden**".

I emailed Nancy Fullmer, and she had just undergone an angiogram. She said all checked out okay. She wanted me to tell everyone Hello from her. Have a Happy Valentines Day, and stay warm. Sandi Jensen ❤️



Mike just sent an email to say that Andreea Ghetie just became a member. Perhaps we should contact her and arrange a field trip to the Gerdemann Gardens. The fuchsia society went on May 13<sup>th</sup> 2014, and it was beautiful! I've never



been there when there wasn't something beautiful to see. This is just two of the many pictures I have taken there. The one on the left is an occidentale down in the lower part of the garden, and the picture on the right is a vireya inside the house that Jerry Sand reconstructed for them.

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Larry found some daffodils growing under a rhody that have been so starved for light that they were almost white. He is going to transplant them into his new flowerbed even though the time is not the best, they will live. It just may take them another year or two to recover.



I found this picture of the Seven Devils macrophyllum in my pictoral archives. I was looking around in hirsutum, and the picture they had of that particular clone said : 'Seven Devils' is a clone/selection/cultivated form of wild species: *R. macrophyllum*. But the picture they had was not as dark as this one. I wish I could remember who entered this into the show. Gene?



This picture was taken by Kathleen Sand in the Gerdemann Garden . Pretty, but I can't remember its name.



Pretty new Amaryllis but not the green one I thought I bought.



We were privileged to host my cousin, her husband, and her sister-in-law overnight recently. They sent us this picture from Harris Beach in Brookings. They have just retired and bought a motorhome to tourist in. Great time to do that since they are from Alaska They were headed south to hug their first redwood trees. Thankfully, they made it through Brookings before the sink holes opened up! Happy Valentines Day, and I hope to see you at the meeting! SJ