



January Presidents Message by Mike Bones

December 27<sup>th</sup>, 2015. On my walk about today, I see that Rhododendron Lees Scarlet is still in bloom. Remember, it was in bloom a month ago then the cold weather hit and those open trusses were cooked. The buds were undamaged and have quickly opened up. Two more of the early bloomers that will soon be opening are Christmas Cheer and Rosa Mundi. Both of these hybrids come from R.caucasicum which is comes from Caucasus in



north eastern Turkey. It was first introduced into cultivation in 1803. Of the three hybrids, I think that I like Lees Scarlet the most, as the



trusses seem larger and it is a darker pink. All three would have a place in a larger garden for early color, either all planted together for a long blooming season, or spaced about to catch ones eye in different locations.



In the photos: I have Iris unguicularis 'Mary Barnard' which I purchased at one of our chapter meetings when Truls Jensen from Wild Ginger Farms was our speaker.

Flowering cabbage and kale are a good source of winter color along with pansies, if the damn deer don't eat them like they have eaten the leaves off of the strawberry plants in this next picture.



Daphne odora has many flower buds showing, soon to have a nice smell covering the whole yard.

The last photo shows my shoe for comparison in size to the daffodils that are up, getting ready for the early spring bouquet.



Hope to see you on January 19<sup>th</sup> when Jack Olson shows pictures of some of his best Rhododendrons and explains 'Why' they are his best.

Happy New Years  
Mike



**Time, like a snowflake, disappears while we're trying to decide what to do with it.**



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.



A great party with great people!

## Shivering rhododendrons



We have had some lows here in the 20's and yesterday, it snowed, and then rained. Since it never got above freezing, the rain coated everything. Our deck is a skating rink! Larry mentioned the *r. sutchuenense* that was folded down, away from the buds. I thought it might be interesting to look at a few that are shivering in our cold! Fortunately, this cold has not been long lived, nor contained heavy rain, so there should be no breakage or other permanent damage, at least from this cold spell. SJ

~~~~~  
I found this Dr. Rhody from January of 2003. The scenario was similar to what could have happened this year, although our rains began earlier in the season. Please send in ANY questions you might like to ask Dr. Rhody! SJ

**Dear Dr. Rhody,**

This summer I purchased several rhododendrons from a local nursery to place around our brand new home in Willow Creek Estates.

I followed instructions carefully, mixed in bark with the sand, set the plants so that they were above the ground slightly and fertilized and watered thoroughly.

The plants were doing very well until mid December when the rains began. Now that it is raining I find some of my plants are in areas of standing water.

Is this a problem? What do you suggest I do?

**Soggy**

**Dear Soggy,**

Yes! You have a problem! Rhododendrons almost without exception do not like to have "wet feet". Good drainage is essential for the health of your plants.

A possible solution, one I have used myself, is to do a little landscaping. Bring in more sand, mix it with bark, make piles or mounds where you want your plants and replant so they are above the water.

If this does not appeal to you, move the plants to another area that is higher and plant something in the area that can handle the water during this part of the year. Some Azaleas such as Occidentale seem to do very well in an area

that is damp during the winter. There are some other choices too. Check with your local nurseries. They will be happy to assist you.

Do make sure you move those plants. They will be much better off during the winter sitting in your driveway than planted in standing water.

**Dr. Rhody**

**Chapter Contacts**

**President:** Mike Bones  
541-997-3082  
[rhodies@charter.net](mailto:rhodies@charter.net)

**Vice-President:** Sandi Jensen  
541-505-4246  
[sfuchsia@gmail.com](mailto:sfuchsia@gmail.com)

**Secretary:** Sandi Hennig  
541-997-2489  
[flendish@q.com](mailto:flendish@q.com)

**Treasurer:** JoAnn Wilson  
541-902-9780  
[nanabanana@oregonfast.net](mailto:nanabanana@oregonfast.net)

**Past President :** Larry Jensen  
541-935-2482  
[sfuchsia@gmail.com](mailto:sfuchsia@gmail.com)

**Board Members:**  
Bill Hennig  
541-997-2489  
[just1more@q.com](mailto:just1more@q.com)

Steven Price  
[503-252-1897](tel:503-252-1897)  
[sgprice1@gmail.com](mailto:sgprice1@gmail.com)

Jim Smith  
541-268-6821  
[rhodysmith@live.com](mailto:rhodysmith@live.com)

**Historian: VACANT**

**Sunshine:** Sandi Hennig  
[541-997-2489](tel:541-997-2489)  
[flendish@q.com](mailto:flendish@q.com)

**Newsletter Editor:** Sandi Jensen  
541-505-4246  
[sfuchsia@gmail.com](mailto:sfuchsia@gmail.com)

**Publicity:** Jenny Velinty  
541-997-7573  
[jenvel@oregonfast.net](mailto:jenvel@oregonfast.net)

**Dinner co-ordinators :**  
Rosemary Rebello  
[541-261-1849](tel:541-261-1849)  
[rosemary.rebello@email.com](mailto:rosemary.rebello@email.com)

**& Sandi Hennig**  
[541-997-2489](tel:541-997-2489)  
[flendish@q.com](mailto:flendish@q.com)



Here is one of my all time favorite things to do in January! Shop the seed catalogs! They always sound so beautiful, and scrumptious!



Our Christmas Eve surprise!



Yes, we have Christmas blow-up toys , soon to be put away for the winter!



**ONE OF YOUR GREATEST POSSESSIONS IS THE 24 HOURS DIRECTLY AHEAD OF YOU.**



**A beautiful Seaview Sunset. I can hardly wait for the blooms of spring and summer!**

Our February Speaker will be the legendary Harold Greer with a program entitled "Rhododendrons, the World in your Garden". His programs are always beautiful, and informative! This will be the last of the early meetings.



This just makes me wish it was showtime again! Remember our early show this year is April 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> !



I think this is Prism. One of Nolan Blansits' hybrids, named by Jack Olson.



Helebores are a beautiful, early addition to the garden, but they hang their heads so that the only way I could get pictures of them in Hendricks park was to put the camera down low, click the shutter and hope.

