

February 2017

Siuslaw Chapter

American Rhododendron Society

P.O. Box 1701

Florence OR. 97439-0111

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

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UPCOMING CHAPTER EVENTS:

Meeting topic: Tuesday, February 21st. Mike Bones will be our speaker on "Rhododendrons Year Round"

Board Meeting: Tuesday February 7th, at Jim and Sylvia Smith's Home in Mapleton at 6:30.

Chapter Meeting-: The Siuslaw Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society will meet Tuesday, February 21st at the Presbyterian Church of the Siuslaw, 3669 Highway 101 in Florence, at 6:30 for refreshments; 7 pm meeting and program. Our website: siuslawars.org

Pre-Meeting Dinner Will be February 21st, at ICM at 5 pm. Please email Rosemary Rebello at rosemary.rebello@gmail.com or phone her at 541-261-1849 to reserve your place at the dinner table! Be there for great fun, great food, & great company.

Gallagher Park Work Party: There will be a work party on Wednesday, February 22nd at Gallagher's Park on 126 and Spruce Street at 10:am, weather permitting . Any questions call Gene Cockeram at 541-997-2377 or email toflowerman@gmail.com

Cookie Team : Jack Hackett , and Sandi Jensen

Hospitality Table: Larry Jensen, and Sandi Hennig



Other Oregon Chapter Meetings and websites

EUGENE CHAPTER: Campbell Senior Center 155 High Street, Eugene, OR

Second Thursday, Oct to May; refreshments at 6:30, meeting at 7:00 pm Website : eugene-chapter-ars.org

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

TUALATIN VALLEY CHAPTER: First Tuesday of the month at 7 pm Washington County Fire District 2 31370 NW Commercial Street North Plains, OR 97133 Website : tuatitinvalleyars.org

SOUTHWESTERN OREGON: Third Thursday of each Month Oct -May 6:30 pm Social, at N. Bend Housing Authority 1700 Monroe Street North Bend . Website : sworegonars.org Show : May 6th & 7th

WILLAMETTE CHAPTER : Second Wednesday of the month, Sep thru May; Dec and May meetings held elsewhere. Meeting is held at First United Methodist Church, 600 State St., Salem, OR. Website : Arswillamette.org

All other web sites can be found on rhododendron.org under chapters web sites.

Our Siuslaw Show dates for 2017 are held on Saturday and Sunday, April 22-23 and May 20-21, our 110th Annual Rhododendron Festival Show.

Spring is here. My first daffodils are blooming, found it today outside. Slugs and earwigs were in the bloom one or maybe both had eaten half of the flower.

Being that we live in the Pacific Northwest, where it is wet for a lot of the year, we have many pests in our gardens. Slugs and Snails seem to be the top of my list. Here is why... ANY two slugs can get together and from that, each can lay up to 500 eggs. (There are over 2000 different species of slugs and snails west of the Rockies.) {think that we have any hybrid slugs}. It can take those eggs up to two years before they can start laying eggs, but remember the parents don't just stop with only laying one set of eggs, they can lay eggs all year round. Slugs have a role in our ecology by eating decomposing vegetation and all of my good plants. Slugs can even live under ground. In the hot summer days, only about 5% of the slugs are above ground. January is the month that they start hatching. Wet warm weather, 50



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degrees is what it takes and we do have those days. Put out something to get rid of both of these pests. If you are worried about pets or birds eating the poison, put it under a board. A banana slug has been clocked at going six and a half inches in one minute, kind of reminds me of trying to get from one side of our Rhody meeting room to the other.

Early Rhododendrons will start flowering this month. For some reason, I seem to like the early ones the best. Maybe it is because it has been at least eight months since I have seen my last rhododendron in flower or it is the beginning of a new year, a new season. Not knowing what lays ahead. A little excitement and anticipation for those the blooms on those new rhodies that I planted last fall. If I have been growing plants on from seeds, I may have new plants going to bloom for the first time, ones that no one else has ever seen.



Cold weather was here this past few months, but here on the coast, I don't think that we had much damage. I feel sorry for those that live in 'not so good growing' conditions. I did cut into a flower bud of *R. dalhousiae* var. *rhabdotum* and found no damage, but may have been the only good one on the plant. Time will tell.

Yes, it is a new year, we have chapter meetings, gardens to visit, old garden friends and meet new ones at those meetings or at a convention. Attending a chapter meeting in another town, we are only an hour away from two other chapters, Southwestern Oregon in Coos Bay and the Eugene Chapter in Eugene. Come to the Pre-meeting dinners. The Siuslaw Chapter is a member of the Species Botanical Gardens in Federal Way, Washington, so if you're up that way, be sure to stop in for a visit, plan at least two hours. Take in another chapters truss show; Volunteer at the Florence Home and Garden show in March, we will have a booth there. Fred Guettler and Lee Goodenough will be heading that up.

If you have a plant question, please do not hesitate to ask, answers can change year to year. Now you have to think about that one. Ask me about it at the next meeting.



Mike



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

Protecting Western Azaleas by Carol Ralph, California Native Plant Society

Head-high shrubs laden with large, ruffled flowers in fresh, clean whites and pinks, wafting heavenly fragrance into the spring air-- Western Azalea (*Rhododendron occidentale*) is definitely among our charismatic megafauna.

Its well-deserved attention has inspired its protection in parks and reserves. Here in North Coast Humboldt County we have two azalea reserves, the Azalea State Natural Reserve (2 miles east of Highway 101 on North Bank Rd, just up Azalea Rd. in McKinleyville) and the Stagecoach Hill Azalea Management Area (at the left end of Kane Rd. north of Big Lagoon). Both are managed for azaleas by California State Parks. We visited both. (Read about our May 23, 2015, field trip in the Summer 2015 issue of *Darlingtonia*, viewable at www.northcoastcnps.org)

The challenge in managing for azaleas is in preventing other shrubbery and eventually trees from overgrowing them. In the natural process of succession, native, woody plants sprout and grow among the azaleas, eventually shading them out. Natural "disasters" such as fire can return the upper hand to azaleas, which are adapted to fire and readily sprout from the base. When non-native, aggressive plants like Himalaya Blackberry are added to the mix, the need for fire or fire-equivalent is especially urgent. In other words, azaleas live in a high maintenance environment.

State Parks, which operates in a low budget environment, has worked with this challenge. The Azalea State Natural Reserve still has azaleas after more than 70 years in State Parks care. Everyone would like them cleaner and pruned, but at least many are still there. This was also the state of things in 1960, when a speaker to the American Rhododendron Society reported the plants and trails overgrown in the Azalea State Reserve (E.P.Breakey. 1960. J. American Rhododendron Society 14(3)).

The North Coast Chapter NPS is joining the California Garden Clubs and the Eureka Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society in assisting State Parks in restoring the azaleas. Drawing on a fund just established by California Garden Clubs (which was instrumental in the original purchase of the Stagecoach Hill Azalea Management Area), State Parks has established the Stagecoach Hill Western Azalea Propagation and Restoration Project, which is raising seeds and cuttings from this remarkably diverse population to plant back in the reserve. The project also will remove encroaching trees at this population this winter.

With articles, field trips, lectures, and displays we are raising the profile of the reserves, hoping to attract a core of local volunteers to help with the hand-clipper work of maintaining the azaleas. The combination of big machinery clearing big areas with volunteers doing hand work has been successful in restoring an azalea population on Hooper Bald in the Nantahala National Forest in the Appalachian Mountains of North Carolina (different species of azalea, same habits). Publicity can also help attract money. A fund will soon be established, possibly with Redwood Parks Conservancy, to which people can donate money that will be spent only for azalea reserve maintenance. The Eureka Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society is hosting the American Rhododendron Society annual meeting, 27 - 30 April, 2017, and including a field trip to Stagecoach Hill www.EurekaRhody.org

If you love azaleas, if you love walking in the Azalea State Natural Reserve, if you wish you were closer to either reserve and want it to be there when you eventually get there, consider lending a hand...and money. Tell Mary Lou Goodwin (707-442-1387); mlgoodwin@outlook.com) that you could help at azalea work days. Donate to the California Garden Club Incorporated azalea propagation fund (Mail check to Mary Lou Goodwin, 1312 Gates St., Eureka, CA 95501-2627). Donate to an Azalea Reserves Maintenance Fund as soon as it is established. (Watch this space!). If you know of a wild azalea plant or population that is dis-appearing under larger plants, clear out the bullies. The azaleas will reward you immediately with renewed vigor.

Editor's June Walsh 's note:

Over November and December the California State Parks has done extensive undergrowth removal at Stage-coach Hill. These efforts were led by Michelle Forsys, Environmental Scientist and Amber Transou, Senior Environmental Supervisor , North Coast Redwoods District, California State Parks. Manpower was provided by Cal Fire Inmate Crews transported from the Alder Conservation Camp.

Editor Sandi Jensen's Note: Thank you to both, the author, Carol Ralph of the California Native Plant Society, and to June Walsh for allowing all to share this message. It will be such a pleasure to see their efforts at the upcoming Conference in Eureka. On behalf of the Western Azalea 'occidentale', Thank You ! The azaleas can use all the help they can get!





 O. HOWARD HINSDALE GARDEN SPRING, 2017

Searching for words, I gaze out the window at the snow and ice coating streets and sidewalks. Feeling a bit of cabin fever I conclude, albeit reluctantly, a mind-clearing walk would be a foolish risk. It's definitely not a day to test Luther Burbank's observation: "Flowers always make people better, happier and more helpful; they are sunshine, food and medicine to the mind." The late nineteenth and early twentieth century hybridizer, perhaps best known for developing the Burbank russet potato, went on to work with hundreds of food crops. Ornamental plants were also among his efforts, doubtless prompted by the quoted sentiment.

Despite today's gloomy outlook, the earth will continue orbiting about the sun. Longer daylight hours and warming will soon trumpet Spring's re-awakening, and our days will be cheery while enjoying fresh new growth and flowers. A not to miss place in that quest is the O. Howard Hinsdale Garden on the lower Umpqua River. Located a short five miles east of Reedsport on Scenic Highway 38, it's a pleasant day's outing from virtually anywhere in western Oregon .

Mark your calendars now for April 15, April 29 and May 13, 2017. Yes, we know there will be many other garden events and visits competing for attention, but don't miss out because you overlooked the date. And we promise no hiccup as occurred last year, when unforeseen events led to cancellation of public open garden days. There's now both a footbridge to the east garden and an ADA path throughout, so everyone may enjoy the entire garden. Those who have visited before will also notice the former Hinsdale home has been removed. We're excited about the opportunities that will present in continuing improvements to the garden and facilities for visitors.

The open hours will be from about ten in the morning until two in the afternoon. Parking will be available at the Elk View Kiosk about a mile west of the garden, with complimentary transportation to and from the garden. That service is provided by the Friends of Hinsdale Garden, who will also man an information booth in the garden. Your voluntary donations to their generous support of the garden will of course be welcome. Visits by groups of perhaps ten or greater on other than these dates may also be possible by prior arrangement.

The O. Howard Hinsdale Garden, likely the oldest rhododendron centric garden in the State, contains a stunning collection of rhododendrons intermixed with many fine magnolias, camellias and other companions. Publicly owned and maintained via the Bureau of Land Management, that agency's assistance also plays a vital role in making open garden days possible.

Do take time to enjoy this very special "...food and medicine to the mind." Gordon Wylie

Last Year I placed my Mothers Day wish with Jacki, Larry and Andrea Ghetie, and was granted a self guided tour for the three of us (unfortunately Andrea wasn't able to join us that day). After reviewing these pictures, I realized that we, as a group, really need to visit this gem of a garden sometime this spring! The Gerdemann Garden Preserve in Yachats is so very close, and the last 3 or 4 times we have been privileged to tour it, there have always been some lovely things to see. Even though the walking paths are on a hillside, I have not found the walking difficult. Sandi Jensen



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The first meeting of the year started off with great numbers! 30 for dinner and over 40 for the meeting! Plus, it was a very entertaining, and informative program. If you go to the conference in Eureka this spring, and take the tours, you can view Don Wallace's Garden Nurse in person!



Calendar of Events 2017

April 8—Hinsdale Garden Open House

April 22—Hinsdale Garden Open House

April 22-23—Early Show, Siuslaw Show

April 27-30— Rhododendrons in the Redwoods, ARS Annual Conference, Eureka, CA For more information call or email June Walsh, 707-443-0604 or RhodyHostel@suddenlink.net or on the Web at

<http://EurekaRhody.org/>

May 6 & 7—Southwestern Oregon ARS. Flower Show and Plant Sale

May 13—Hinsdale Garden Open House



The most romantic story isn't Romeo and Juliet who died together, but grandma and grampa who grew old together



**I've finally lost my mind!
If found don't bother returning it,
It wasn't working properly anyway!**



The new vireya house is done, and we have kind of moved in. The vireya's have moved in anyway, but there is much left to do, at least for me. It's built, and now it's my turn. I will colonize it, but sometime soon I have to seed my tomatoes, so I have to set up the old vireya house first. Pictures to come soon, I hope.

