

MARCH 2017

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, March 21st. Rhododendron and Azalea Garden Culture with problem solving complete with questions and answers. Be sure to bring your problems to solve! Plus pictures!!!

Board Meeting: Tuesday March 14th, 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, March 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 March 21st, at Clawsons Wheelhouse , 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, March 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 : Lois Bravo, Gene Cockeram

Hospitality Table: Jim Smith , Lee Goodenough



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 Southwest Show dates are May 6th and 7th

Yes, it is Spring 2017! The Siuslaw Chapter is 47 years old and we are still very much alive, thanks to you.

I want to thank Fred Guettler for organizing the Siuslaw Booth at the Home and Garden show that was on the first week end in March and to all of you that volunteered to work it. We had a lot of people stopping by asking questions, and maybe because we did give one rhododendron away every hour or it's because we are the City of Rhododendrons.



Members have been asking for more rhododendron pictures and information at our monthly meetings so this month you get your wish. Pictures of "do gooders" for our area, care and culture. It will be colorful, educational and entertaining. You are not going to want to miss this meeting. Invite a friend, or do you know of anyone that does not drive after dark, pick them up and bring them. We are working to get our chapter back up to 100 people, we can do it, but it takes all of us working together.

If you have any dead limbs on your plants, go ahead and cut them off, don't leave a sharp knob that could be a potential hazard, cut it off flush by using the right tool for the size of the limb. If the size is up to the size of your index finger, use your clippers, if it's the size of your thumb and a little more, use those loppers, then go for the saw. It might just be a little folding saw, or maybe that reciprocating saw out in the garage. If you are using an electrical saw, be sure not to cut the cord. No matter what you use, be safe. If I have a dead limb that I have cut off, I don't put it in my compost, I burn it. (just in case it had a disease)

The early flower show is next month, we will be needing your trusses for display, your body to help set things up, during judging, for working the hospitality table, and money for trophies. If you do not have any Rhododendrons blooming in your garden, you may think about picking up an early bloomer. That early color outdoors can bring sunshine indoors.



May 6th, 2017

3:00-9:00 ARS Eugene Chapter Spring Rhododendron Show & Banquet
Hilton Garden Inn, Springfield ; Reservations required

Speaker Mike Stewart - "Asia Hunt for Rhododendrons"



American Rhododendron Society 2017 International Convention will be held in Eureka, CA hosted by the Eureka Chapter, April 27-30, 2017

The Eureka Chapter will need to have our members volunteer for the many tasks that need to be done to make this event a big success. Contact rhodyhostel@suddenlink.net to volunteer!

We already have registrations coming in from around the world, including Japan, France, Scotland and Canada. What a great opportunity to meet other Garden Geeks and Rhodo-holics. There will be tours and world class speakers.

Get more information and registration forms at www.EurekaRhody.org



Just once in my life, I'd like to see a liars pants catch fire!

Top Causes of Death in Rhododendrons

Jan D. Kelley
Drain, Oregon

Our hopes soar with the coming of spring as we anticipate another excellent growing season for our rhododendrons with their exquisite flowers. As we ponder the fantastic new hybrids in the pages of the several catalogs that we receive our vision of being successful gardeners bursts forth. However, as you reflect upon last year's plant losses a ray of doubt creeps into your consciousness, and the nagging question emerges: "Why did that plant die?"

For the past 15 years I have enjoyed raising rhododendrons. During that period of time I believe that I have killed rhododendrons in every conceivable way. In the remainder of this brief article I would like to identify some of the various ways that rhododendrons succumb in our yards and gardens. My experience indicates that most rhododendrons die from about seven causes.

To begin with, excessive water kills about 75 percent of all rhododendrons purchased. Rhododendrons are fibrous, shallow rooted plants that need good drainage to perform well. Historically, gardeners have been told to dig a hole twice as wide and twice as deep as the root ball. After the hole is completed put the plant in the hole and back-fill it with a mixture of peat, soil and other amendments. Many rhododendrons die from this guidance. The result of digging the hole and planting the rhododendron in it is nothing more than putting the plant in a bathtub that holds excessive water. The continual presence of water around the root ball prevents the roots from taking in vital oxygen as well as serving as an excellent incubation chamber for fungus diseases. It seems that most of the native soils around the country have an excessive amount of clay in them. The presence of clay in the soil prevents good drainage, which is vital to the growth of the rhododendrons. Anyone who has ever been to the several locations around the world where rhododendrons originate knows that rhododendrons grow in shallow beds of highly organic matter. The drainage is typically excellent.

Another cause of rhododendron death is lack of water. Rhododendrons do not have taproots like trees: their roots grow very near the surface. Therefore, they need frequent watering. The acquisition of new plants in the spring requires regular watering. During the first couple of years watering the plants at least twice a week is a must. As the time goes by and the plants increase in size and root development, watering less frequently works well. After about five or six years it is possible to water weekly or even bi-weekly. Frequently sunburned leaves are the result of the lack of water. For many varieties that have burned in the sun in the past, the cause was lack of water not too much sun. Burned tips on this year's new growth is typically indicative of lack of water as the plant withdraws water from the tips of the new foliage first.

Another cause of rhododendron death is the excessive application of fertilizer. This is particularly true of applying fertilizer directly at the base of the trunk of the plant. A good rule of thumb is to fertilize more frequently with smaller amounts, rather than one large dose. This is especially true for small plants or newly transplanted plants. A fourth reason for rhododendron death is planting too deep. As indicated earlier, rhododendrons are shallow rooted plants. Their roots grow just below the soil line. If they are placed too deep in the ground, the soil that covers the roots serves to smother them. I have found that planting too deep will basically stop the plant from growing. Eventually this leads to the death of the plant.

Another reason that rhododendrons die is from cold winter temperatures. Most rhododendron sources indicate the lowest temperature range in which rhododendrons can be successfully grown. This hardiness rating is a guide not an absolute! In general, the lowest temperature during the past five years is a good guide for making selections based on hardiness. Years ago there were very few plants that were hardy in -25°F for the extreme climates. Now we have over 100 varieties that will survive those winter temperatures. Gardeners in the East should select hardy varieties in the beginning. With time and experience less hardy varieties can be successfully tried. A rhododendron rated hardy to 5°F, no matter how beautiful it is, planted in Green Bay, Wisconsin, will not survive.

As more and more home gardeners in the Southern and Midwestern states begin to grow rhododendrons, increased attention must be paid to the hot summer sun. Most varieties exposed to unprotected all-day sun are doomed. However, there are available rhododendron varieties that can stand direct sun. In general rhododendrons in extreme climates benefit from filtered light and partial shade. Planting in a southern exposure without any protection from the sun nearly guarantees plant death.

Finally, if you create the right conditions most rhododendrons will be subject to fungus diseases. Typically we combine several fungus diseases into a general category of "die-back." The results of the disease are seen during the late spring when the plant is just beginning to grow and all of a sudden it drops dead. It is also seen during the summer when a branch turns brown and dies. Frequently the ailing plant will be lost. These phytophthora-type diseases are generally

the result of conditions created by the gardener, as it is believed that the disease spores are present in the soil all over the country. Some of the ways that we promote these organisms is by planting the rhododendron too deep, thus providing a water culture for the development of the disease organisms. Puddles of water that remain more than an hour after watering also harbor disease. Watering in the late afternoon or evening encourages disease development. Finally, failure to use fungicides during the late spring and summer encourages the development of fungus. In conclusion, you are not alone if you have lost plants to any of the above mentioned causes of rhododendron death. Most of the causes can be overcome with the intelligent selection of plants that are suited to your geographical area. Finally, think about where and how you planted your rhododendrons and what you did to promote their death.

American Rhododendron Society



What a wonderful and fun group of people!



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

By the time January gets here usually, I've had just about enough winter. This year, January wasn't much better. Then by the end of the month r. ririei's buds are swelling. This year it was all the way to the end of February before I picked the first truss. Many years it gets hit with a hard frost, but it is still one of my very favorite plants. It blooms very early; starting in January or February in the valley. Here in our cold pocket we are usually 2 weeks behind Hendricks Park in Eugene.



I think ririei is one of the best kept secrets in the rhody world. The bloom color varies from a medium purple to many shades of pink. The trusses contain about 7 florets that are about 2 1/2 inches long. I find it is better than any hybrid that blooms at this time.



Now it is almost time for mucronulatum to bloom, followed by many other lepidotes. Yes there is so much outdoor work to do that I've been putting off because of the cold, wet weather. I guess it's time to go out and finish fertilizing, cleaning, and getting the trails ready.

When I planted the hillside I hadn't planned on everything leaning eastward looking for a little sunshine. I guess it's time to thin the dogwoods. We are lucky to have the native dogwoods, (cornus nuttallii) which grow like weeds here in the fir understory, but they do fill in and hog the light!



I hope to see you at the meeting. LJ



Detach by cutting or tearing and bring it to the next meeting, or send to Siuslaw ARS P.O. Box 1701 Florence, OR. 97439

Here is a contribution for Trophies at the Siuslaw Flower Show. \$15 _____; \$20 _____; or other _____

Thank You from the show committee

Chapter Contacts

President: Mike Bones - 2017
541-997-3082
rhodies@charter.net

Vice-President: Sandi Jensen - 2017
541-505-4246
sfuchsia@gmail.com

Secretary: Kathy Bones - 2018
541-997-3082
kathybones@charter.net

Treasurer: Jim Hobbs -2018
541-621-9049
hobhouse@gmail.com

Past President : Larry Jensen
541-852-7031
sfuchsia@gmail.com

Board Members:

Bill Hennig - 2017
541-997-2489
just1more@q.com

Steven Price - 2019
[503-252-1897](tel:503-252-1897)
sgprice1@gmail.com

Jim Smith - 2018
541-268-6821
rhodysmith@live.com

Historian: **VACANT**

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

Newsletter Editor: Sandi Jensen
541-505-4246
sfuchsia@gmail.com

Publicity: Jenny Velinty
541-997-7573
jenvel@oregonfast.net

Dinner co-ordinators :
Rosemary Rebello
[541-261-1849](tel:541-261-1849)
rosemary.rebello@email.com
& Sandi Hennig
[541-997-2489](tel:541-997-2489)
flendish@q.com

Membership: JoAnn Wilson
541-902-9780
nanabanana339@gmail.com

Calendar of Events 2017

April 8—Hinsdale Garden Open House

April 22—Hinsdale Garden Open House

April 22-23—Siuslaw Early 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 –Eugene Show and Banquet

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

May 13—Hinsdale Garden Open House



My first tomato transplants for the year , and I have MANY more to do! I hope everyone will want some!



I've reached the time in my life when happy hour is a nap !



Our booth at the home show



Ron Caputo at the home show



One of the white pelicans at the Fern Ridge barrow pit

