

SEPTEMBER 2017

Siuslaw Chapter
American Rhododendron Society
P.O. Box 1701
Florence OR. 97439-0111
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UPCOMING CHAPTER EVENTS:

Meeting topic: Tuesday, September 19th, Will be rhodies 101

Board Meeting: Tuesday September 12th at Bill and Sandi Hennig's home in Florence Or at 05638 Martin Rd. at 6:30

Chapter Meeting-: The Siuslaw Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society will meet Tuesday, September 19th at the Presbyterian Church of the Siuslaw, 3669 Highway 101 in Florence, 6:30 for refreshments, 7:00 for the meeting. Our website: siuslawars.org

Pre-Meeting Dinner Will be 5 pm September 19th at Chens. Please email Sandi Hennig at flendish@q.com or phone her at 541-997-2489 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 Tuesday September 19 from 10 am until noon to clean up the park. Please contact Steven Price at phone: [503-252-1897](tel:503-252-1897) or email: sgprice1@gmail.com
Remember, if you work at the park, you get 6 free tickets for the raffle!

Cookie Team : Deb Price, Gene Cockeram, and Sandi Hennig

Hospitality Table: Ron Caputo



Other Oregon Chapter Meetings and websites

EUGENE CHAPTER: Changing their place and Date to 3rd Wednesday of each month at The Springs at Greer Gardens 1282 Goodpasture Island Road, Eugene, Oregon 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 : tuatitINVALLEARS.org

SOUTHWESTERN OREGON: Changing the day of the week and time. Beginning Saturday Oct 21st at 1 in the afternoon, at N. Bend Housing Authority 1700 Monroe Street North Bend. Website : sworegonars.org

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.

Welcome to a new year of meeting with other Rhododendron enthusiasts. We have many new faces in our chapter and we Welcome you to a monthly meeting of education, socialization and fun. I still remember my very first meeting with the Siuslaw Chapter ARS, Don Houghton was the president and we were meeting at the Siuslaw Valley Bank, now Banner Bank. They spoke a language that I had no idea as to what was being said. Looking back, I wish that I would have questioned them as to what they were really saying. To explain and to talk so that I could understand what they were talking about. We try to keep it down so that everyone could understand what is being said, or to explain it on a common level. Please...Please...Please, ask, or say, "Stop..i don't understand that". I think that if I would have asked years ago, I might have learned faster than just letting it try to sink in as to what was being said.



We always meet on the third Tuesday of the month, picnics and potlucks are usually different dates, but we will keep you informed. Our first meeting will be "Rhodies 101" an informal meeting put on by your own chapter members. We try to do this at the beginning of each season, September through May. This will just give you a basic knowledge about our chapter, The American Rhododendron Society, and basic information that will entice you to want to look farther into the genus Rhododendron.

This is a meeting that you will not want to miss, join us for the pre-meeting dinner, come early to the meeting and bring a friend.

I would like to thank our Mother Chapter, the Eugene Chapter of the ARS, for changing their meeting nights to the third Wednesday of each month so that maybe we can collaborate on speakers in the future.

Mike Bones, President, Siuslaw Chapter ARS



My apologies for not having the club pictures that I usually have. We did not go to the summer picnic at the Price residence because we were right in the middle of our kitchen remodel. Although we did end up going to the southwest picnic on July 8th, I was very lame and only took one or two pictures, and so goes the tale of our summer. Even our granddaughters wedding was not well chronicled by me because I was busy watching, visiting, and drinking beer.



However, there was a lovely young woman who was the photographer, and if the 3 pictures I've seen are any indication, there will be some very good ones to come. Larry was kept busy creating things for the wedding such as the arch and the cupcake holder, and then he created some planter boxes to put some of the plants into that we took to the venue. All in all it has been an extremely busy summer, and it's not over yet! I still have an estate sale to hold and a house to sell as well as the usual canning and freezing of fruits and vegetables, plus the cuttings that need to be done. It never ends, or as I was always told, there is no rest for the wicked, and this is the price I have to pay for being so wicked!

As most of you know, we lost a member of the Eugene Chapter, Nolan Blansit, on July 9th. I got to know Nolan during our last national convention here in Eugene. Nolan was a hybridizer, who made approximately two hundred crosses a year. When we had our Spring pot luck at their home East of Cottage Grove, I was really impressed by the number of plants he had grown. There were thousands of plants carefully planted in rows with the name of the cross in each row. He was very organized. There were many beautiful trusses, many on miniature plants. It was his goal, to develop a small plant with above average flowers. He was on his way, having some beautiful creations. *R. 'Teachers Pet'*, *R. 'Childs Play'*, *R. 'Neon'*, and *R. 'Prism'*, were just a few. There are many of his plants in our Northwest Gardens. Nolan hybridized for over ten years. He shared knowledge with Jim Barlup, and others to get the plants he was seeking. Many of his hybrids were grown from pollen exchanged with others.

Some of it was frozen from earlier blooming plants. Nolan kept very careful records, numbering each of his crosses by year, and by number of the cross. Nolan not only grew rhododendrons but was excellent at making pottery. He produced many beautiful pieces. Nolan used his expertise, to develop the first yellow African violet. He was an excellent gardener and plant collector. Our Rhody group had the privilege of walking through his beautiful garden and seeing first hand how good a gardener he was.

Nolan will be missed in our group. He was a nice man with good values, and saw the beauty in everything.
By Jack Olson



From the Eugene Chapter September 2017 Newsletter



Mike sent a picture of excellens and said this about it “ My last Rhododendron to bloom. it is August 7th 2017 Rhododendron excellens, amazingly large and fragrant white flowers.

This is Arthur Osborn , and I took this picture on the 25th of July. It is fairly unusual for us here in the valley to have such a late bloomer during the summer. They usually get too hot and dry up, but this has bloomed two years in a row in July.



This was grown from wild collected seed. I did get the plant a few years ago from the Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden” So the moral of this story is : Look for plants that stretch the bloom time. They can be very rewarding !

Flinckii-lanata

Welcome back! I am once again ready for summer to be over. This past Saturday we got Danielle married (our granddaughter who was frequently with us at rhody shows). What a party! There were about 200 people and it was a great venue. Plus the weather was perfect, unlike today.

We have been spending a lot of time watering and checking plants. So far, most of the plants are doing okay except for some leaf burn from early hot spells.



Flinckii (lanata) has beautiful cinnamon indumentum and the bloom is a creamy yellow with red spotting. We placed ours about 2 years ago on the northeast side of a tool shed. It had been barely surviving in its previous location, but now it is thriving. It even bloomed this spring. This goes back to the necessity of finding the correct location for your plants.

Sometimes I forget to listen to the plants.

While I was walking through the yard earlier, I noticed 4 bloom buds on wardii. The last time it set buds, we had an early freeze of 0°f in December that nearly killed the plant so I have yet to see it bloom.

My wife sometimes calls me a species snob, but it's not true. I own hundreds of hybrids and have quite a few of my own. Speaking of hybrids, Blewbury, a roxianum x anhweiense hybrid is fast becoming one of my favorite hybrids. The foliage looks totally roxianum, but the plant blooms at a young age and covers itself with trusses.



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

Chapter Contacts

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Danielle and Nick



The wedding couple under the arch



There are a few changes this year at the chapters nearest to us. If you look under Other Oregon Chapter meetings and websites, Eugene and the Southwest chapters have both changed their meeting days, and Eugene has changed its place to meet as well.



I was watering late one evening, and it wasn't quite dark yet when I came across one of my small lilies blooming like crazy, so I thought I'd take a quick picture with my phone. It turned out to be one of the best pictures I'd taken this year. After seeing it, I

remember what a photographer told me once, which I had forgotten, and that was take pictures of your flowers either in the dark, or in this case dusk, and the background will be dark or black and the flowers will pop! I won't forget again....I hope.



Larry realized we had this Vireya blooming off the end of the house. After looking at the tags, I realized it was a plant grown from an entry to one of our shows from the Gerdemann Preserve when Jerry and Kathleen Sand were the owners.

Its' name is Tropic Alpine Violette and I never thought it stood a chance of starting when I took the little guy home, but they are a lot tougher than they look. I hope more people will try growing Vireyas!