

FEBRUARY 2018

Siuslaw Chapter
American Rhododendron Society
P.O. Box 1701
Florence OR. 97439-0111

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

IS CHANGING TO A FACEBOOK PAGE
CALLED COASTAL RHODODENDRONS



UPCOMING CHAPTER EVENTS:

Meeting topic: Tuesday February 20th, Steve Hootman Director of the Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden in Federal Way, Washington, will be our guest speaker with his presentation of Exploring for Rhododendrons over the past 20 years. The excitement of finding a new plant, that has never been described by anyone else, the steep mount terrain or the Himalayan mountains with drop offs for over a hundred feet breath taking views. Having to fight off the elements of nature, in down pours that one would think would never stop. Leaches dropping from the forest around you, crossing rope bridges with raging rivers far below, having to bribe your way into remote areas with the local governments and the locals who have never seen a Caucasian before in their life.

There will be rare and unusual plants to buy from his expeditions at this meeting.

Board Meeting: Tuesday , February 13th at Sandi and Bill Hennigs home at 05638 Martin Rd. at 6:30.

Chapter Meeting-: The Siuslaw Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society will meet Tuesday, February 20th 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 at Ixtapa Tuesday February 20th at 5 pm. Call or email Rosemary Rebello at [541-261-1849](tel:541-261-1849) or rosemary.rebello@gmail.com to **reserve your place at the dinner table!** Be there for great fun, great food, & great company.

Gallagher Park Work Party: Gallagher Park Rhody Days prep. **Saturday March 31st** (rain or shine) 9 am to 3 pm (There will be snacks and a door prize) Please note the change ! 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 : Sandi Jensen,

Hospitality Table: Steven Price



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 : tuatitinvalleyars.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 : Arwillamette.org

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



Thank You to Greg Carlton for the great meeting photos!

February Presidents message by Mike Bones

We are fortunate to have Steve Hootman, Director of the Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden, world wide speaker and plant explorer, as our guest speaker for our February meeting. This will be the most interesting and educational meeting of the year. Bring a friend for the social gathering starting at 6:30 before the meeting starts.



Our Show Chairs, Larry Jensen and Bill Hennig have started organizing our two chapter sponsored Rhododendron Flower shows. Be sure to volunteer to help, it is fun, educational, a learning experience,(You do NOT have to know anything about rhododendrons)and a way to help out your chapter.

Spring is here, a few of the early rhododendrons are blooming, Christmas Cheer, Lees Scarlet, Seta, Maxine Childers is a nice early red, one of its parents is

R.strigillosum, which is our earliest red species to bloom, it comes from Szechwan where it grows at the elevation of 7 to 10 thousand feet.

I heard the frogs croaking in the swamp, daffodils are blooming, slugs have started eating the flowers, so keep an eye out for those pesky critters. Daphne smells good in the garden it has great color too. The rain is being soaked up by the plants, and is washing the fertilizer into the ground where the roots of the plants are taking in that food for next years blooms.

Take a look at your plants during the winter to see which ones you like when they are not blooming. Why do you like that plant over others? Makes for good conversation at our social gatherings.

See you on the 20th for a great meeting. Contact Rosemary Rebello and RSVP for dinner reservations at Ixtapa Mexican food and a good margarita.

Mike



Connie Rosenbalm is a native Oregonian who lived in Hillsboro until retirement when she says her husband Skip brought her to Florence.

She said she asked a (stupid) question (there is no such thing as a stupid question) of Bill Hennig who invited them to the next rhody meeting.

The rest is history.

Now she says her hobbies and interests involve the planting of rhodys.

She and Skip both help out in many capacities at the flower shows.



Skip Rosenbalm came to Florence from Hillsboro after liking what he saw in the proximity to lakes and rivers as well as the Events Center, library, Hospital, and the distance to major cities.

They inquired about how to care for the rhodies that were at the home they bought here in Florence, and through Bill Hennig, found themselves going to rhody meetings.

His other interests are fishing and home brewing.

He would like to see programs on bug control, and trimming to control growth, as well as how to deal with the holes in the rhody leaves.

He is a big help in the set-up and takedown of the racks at the show.



Tom and Donna Oshel have come to Florence from Windsor ,California, near Santa Rosa, and Ridgecrest, California in the Mojave desert. Donnas’ parents bought property on Mercer Lake in the early 1960’s and they have been coming up to visit ever since. They finally moved to Florence permanently at the end of 2015. They joined us at the rhody society because they were interested in rhododendrons. Their other interests include collecting conifers, traveling, fishing, camping, and theater.



Rhonda Arionus came to Florence from Northern California and she and her husband chose the area because of the Ocean and the trees. She said they were asked to come to the rhododendron society by Mike and Kathy Bones.

Her interests are pool, hiking, paddle boarding, crabbing and beachcombing. She makes delicious sweet and savory treats!



Keith Arionus was attracted to Florence by the trees, and moved here from Livermore California.

He and his wife were impressed with Mike and Kathy Bones warm and welcoming way, and decided to give the rhody society a try. They joined in 2017.

His hobbies and interests are sailboarding, mushroom foraging, permaculture, beachcombing, pool gardening and massage. He said he would like to see programs on garden predators, and how to encourage their presence. He also mentioned that he was interested in the newsletter. A replacement perhaps?



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



The early bird may get the worm, but the second mouse gets the cheese.



Candy Corn x campylocarpum x
Macabeananum



Chris Trautmann



January bloomer



2 December
bloomers



Past presidents message by Larry Jensen

Sunday January 28th we went up to Hendricks Park in Eugene. It was one of those rare warm January days we were having, and we found their r. ririei in full bloom. Our largest ririei is normally a week or two later. A short distance away there is a r. dauricum blooming for all it's worth and the park was filled with the sweet scent of sarcococoo. If you are in Portlandia Bovee's Nursery has a nice r. ririei.

I was walking around our garden looking at what I want to do this year. We have about 50 r. occidentale seedlings, and hopefully, next spring they will start blooming. We collected seed near Brookings so there should be quite a bit of pink. Once they're blooming I hope to have some for our auction.

Two years ago I built a bed on the road side of our veggie garden. I planted 20 azaleas, and 19 out of that 20 are covered with bloom buds! Those of you who know me well, know that they are deciduous, NOT evergreen.

This year our early show on April 14-15th, and the Southwest Oregon flower show on April 28th left the weekend of the RSBG plant sale open. Tentatively we are planning a road trip for that event. Unfortunately, the new truck could make that trip very expensive, with the added room to fill up over our small car that we had. If you decide to make that trip too, consider including Brinnon Washington and the Whitney Garden Nursery. They have a wonderful display garden where some of the r. Loderis' are 20 feet tall or more. Read about Ellie Sather who runs the nursery in a great article in the summer 2017 issue of the JARS (Journal of the American Rhododendron Society) LJ



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It was a nice day to walk in the park at Eugene's Hendricks Park, a hilltop public garden just east of the UofO campus. We were there early enough to see a few things that I hadn't seen before. These cute little crocus were harboring a slug which I didn't see until I was looking at the picture on the computer



Then there was this plant that looked kind of like *Lonicera* (honeysuckle) leaves, but the seed pods weren't right, and it still had leaves.... Ah, I love a good mystery!



The Witch Hazel was in full bloom...



And the *Viburnum bodnantense* was as well, but these two, which are ordinarily fragrant could not even be smelled due to the overwhelming scent of the *sarcococca* which has evergreen leaves and tiny white flowers that are so small that you wonder how they can produce that much scent!

Then of course is the *ririei* which is the plant we had come to the park for. Such a lovely shade of pinkish lavender, with the deep purple nectary pouches. Such a shot in the arm to those of us who are longing for the spring bloomers!



Please don't miss this upcoming meeting on February 20th to see Steve Hootman, the curator of the Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden as well as the northwest's most intrepid species stalker ! The pictures and the stories are world class.

Also, double your pleasure by attending the Eugene meeting Wednesday , February 21st at The Springs at 7:00

Steve Hootman – History of the Species Foundation at Federal Way, Washington
The Rhododendron Species Foundation is a non-profit organization founded and incorporated in 1964 by Pacific Northwest members of the American Rhododendron Society in order to secure the finest authentic forms of Rhododendron species and to develop a comprehensive collection of this plant genus. Because of the destruction of Rhododendron habitat in many areas of the world, conservation has become of primary importance in recent years. This concern led to the formation of the Rhododendron Species Foundation and has guided its activities.

Lots of information may be found at <https://rhodygarden.org/cms/rsf-foundation/history/>