

# Macrophyllum

NOVEMBER 2018

Siuslaw Chapter

American Rhododendron Society

P.O. Box 1701

Florence OR. 97439-0111



FACEBOOK: [Coastal Rhododendrons](#)

WEB SITE: <http://www.siuslawars.org/>



## UPCOMING CHAPTER EVENTS

**Meeting topic:** Tuesday, November 20<sup>th</sup>. The program is about the people, landscape, and plants of Iran with Ali Sarlak of Corvallis. He is a past president of the ARS Eugene chapter.

**Board Meeting:** Tuesday, November 13<sup>th</sup> 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, November 20<sup>th</sup> at the Presbyterian Church of the Siuslaw, 3669 Highway 101 in Florence, 6:30 for refreshments, 7:00 for the meeting.

**Pre-Meeting Dinner:** Will be at ICM, 1498 Bay St., at 5:00pm. Please call or email Sandi Hennig by November 16 at 541-997-2489 or [flendish42@gmail.com](mailto:flendish42@gmail.com) to reserve your place at the dinner table! Be there for great fun, great food, and great company.

**Gallagher Park Work Party:** None until spring

**Cookie Team:** Sylvia Smith, Lois Bravo, Anne-Marie Mann

**Hospitality Table:** Board Members

**Coffee:** Mike Bones



## Other Oregon Chapter Meetings and [Websites](#)

**[EUGENE CHAPTER:](#)** Meetings are usually on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month at The Springs at Greer Gardens, 1282 Goodpasture Island Road, Eugene, Oregon. At the Nov. 14<sup>th</sup> meeting, Harold Greer will talk about Russia and Its Rhododendrons starting at 7:00pm.

**[PORTLAND CHAPTER:](#)** Meets at All Saints Episcopal Church, 4033 SE Woodstock Ave, Portland, OR, on the third Thursday of each month, September through May. The program begins at 7 pm. On Nov. 15<sup>th</sup> the speaker will be Kristin Faurest of the Portland Japanese Garden.

**[TUALATIN VALLEY CHAPTER:](#)** Meets on the first Tuesday of the month at 6:45 pm at the Washington County Fire District 2, 1370 NW Commercial Street, North Plains, OR 97133.

**[SOUTHWESTERN OREGON:](#)** In October and November meetings will be on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month at 7 pm. at N. Bend Housing Authority, 1700 Monroe Street, North Bend. No meetings in January and February. March through May will be 7 pm. December's Christmas Potluck is TBA.

**[WILLAMETTE CHAPTER:](#)** Second Wednesday of the month, Sep thru May, at 7:00pm; Dec and May meetings held elsewhere. Meeting is held at First United Methodist Church, 600 State St., Salem, OR.

All other web sites can be found on <http://rhododendron.org> under chapters web sites.

Pictures from the October meeting. Thanks, Sandi!



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## Rhododendron 'Pink Ribbon'



Gene Cockeram has donated over \$1,000.00 from the sales of his 'Pink Ribbon' Rhododendron to the Friends of Florence, who operate the cancer van that transports patients to Eugene for their treatments. Over half of the riders are breast cancer patients. Gene auctioned a couple of these lovely rhodies at the October meeting to add to his generous donation. Gene is the breeder of 'Pink Ribbon' and Terry Henderson is the grower.

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**Cheryl and Ron Prchal  
shared this picture of their well house  
with wood carvings.**



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## About November's Speaker



Ali Sarlak is originally from Iran (Persia). He says, "I am sure we all have been hearing on the news at least the name, Iran, but you might see and get a different prospect of my birth country Iran, I hope after my talk."

Ali has lived in Corvallis, Oregon for almost 40 years, where he owns and operates a small landscape business. He became interested in rhododendrons and was president of the Corvallis chapter for one term and of the Eugene chapter for two terms. Ali has attended many national and international conferences on rhododendrons, and he has visited some of our members on occasion.

Ali travelled to Iran to revisit the beautiful mountains and alpine flowering plants he remembered from his childhood. He travelled with a company based in England and was one of 16 people on the tour. The snow had been good, and the plants were looking great. He saw many plants that are found only in that region of Iran. Ali thinks the landscape, geology, geography, scenery, culture, history, and people were fascinating, and he is eager to share his pictures and experiences with us.

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## Web Site News

As you've probably noticed, our chapter's Web site has been updated. Jay Guettler has added some back issues of the newsletter, updated the calendar, and refreshed the home page. Be sure to check it out at [www.siuslawars.org](http://www.siuslawars.org).



## WHY GROW NATIVE PLANTS?

From [Garden Design Magazine](#) for the Northwest Gardener

Plant preservation becomes crucial as habitats are destroyed by development. If we gardeners do not grow certain native plants, they could disappear from the earth. We would mourn the loss of any wildflower for its beauty alone, but nearly all plants have specific interactions with other beings, for example, as a food source for an animal. Take a link out of the food chain—lose an indigenous plant forever—and a reaction may occur that could ultimately lead up the chain to us humans. A considerable number of today's pharmaceuticals are plant-derived, and the demise of a plant species may mean the loss of a yet-to-be-discovered curative.

It is a sin to collect a plant from the wild. But when a place is threatened, organized rescue groups around the country save plants. These folks get permission from developers to go onto a site, often hours before the bulldozers, and dig as many plants as possible. The saved plants are then distributed to new homes in public and private gardens.

What about creating a sense of place? You can travel across the country and see millions of mirror-image "lawnsapes" with shrubs rigidly pruned beneath high-limbed trees. Often, you would not know where you were without a plane ticket or a road map. But you also may see an occasional tall-grass prairie planting in a Milwaukee suburb or a well-made desert garden outside of Phoenix. These oases of local plants may look different from their neighbors, but they always look right. Many Midwesterners choose tall-grass prairie perennials to use in traditional plantings. Purple coneflower, big bluestem, prairie dock, gayfeather, sunflowers and other prairie natives provide color for borders year after year in a climate that is too hot or too cold for many other perennials.

Native plants are especially popular where wildflowers are still abundant, and can be seen in public gardens, parks and preserves. People flock to the Smoky Mountains in North Carolina to view the wildflowers. Actually, the Southeast is second only to China in the temperate world for a richness of diverse plant species. On the other hand, where native plants are arguably least revered are places whose climates are moderate and support the widest range of plants from around the world. Once rich in indigenous flora, California has lost an estimated 80 percent of its local plants in some areas. Judging by the plants you see while walking the streets of Santa Monica, you are more likely to imagine yourself in the Mediterranean region or southeastern Australia than coastal California. Plants from all around the world have happily made themselves at home.

Perhaps the most important reason to grow indigenous plants is to reduce the stress on an area's natural resources. As I write this column, a drought emergency has been declared in the state where my garden grows. I won't be making any new plantings this year. I can already see the wisdom in growing local plants. Even with abnormal precipitation and with no additional watering from me, my woodland garden is faring beautifully beneath white pine and ash trees, in soil mixed to mimic that of the local forest floor. The trillium bloomed in spring. The jack-in-the-pulpits are about to do their thing with hooded spaths unfurling. Yellow wood poppies are still flowering, and even the local azalea is blooming.

Ultimately, the availability of water will determine what gardeners should do or are allowed to do. Planting natives to lessen the strain on resources—from water to gasoline for lawn mowers—may be the most patriotic thing a gardener can do.

And by the way, the woman at the garden center may have found what she was looking for in *Evolvulus pilosus*, a spreading plant related to morning glories that naturally occurs in little soil pockets—perfect for containers. This trailing native with gray-green leaves and little blue flowers hails from Montana, South Dakota, Arizona and Texas. It's a pretty plant—and a smart choice in the right locality.



## President's Message by Mike Bones

Spring is just around the corner and that means we should start planning on our two flower shows. Day Farrald has stepped forward to learn how the Siuslaw Chapter puts on two fantastic shows. Thanks, Day. He is going to be needing help. It is a group effort with everyone pitching in. He will be needing a person willing to be the chair of the Trophys, collecting funds and gathering them. This is a job that can be started soon.

I have daffodils that are already through the ground so its feeding time for them along with the rhododendrons.

If you have a dead limb in your plants, cut it out, take it all the way back to the 'Y' or fork so that there is not a dangerous stick for you to fall on. Always think safety.

My plant for this month is Peter Faulk.



### FLOWER SHOWS

EARLY SHOW: APRIL 13-14, 2019

LATE SHOW: MAY 18-19, 2019





*And speaking of our upcoming flower shows...*

## WHAT'S A FLOWER SHOW WITHOUT FLOWERS? by Pete Warner

Over the past five decades I have been to any number of rose shows, orchid shows, tulip shows, camelia shows, rhododendron shows, and flower shows. The one thing they have in common is that they all have flowers in an amazing variety of sizes, shapes, colors, and shades. As my wife and I wander through the shows we often say, and we overhear others make comments like, "Wow! the blossoms are so gorgeous!" or "Boy, they are so beautiful!" But we seldom hear anyone commenting about that flower has a blemish or why's that flower in the show?

The really important thing is that there are an abundance of flowers and the shows burst with vibrant colors. That explosion of color is what strikes everyone's interest.

Many of us participate and some of us enter our blossoms in shows. We select a few and discard many since they are not perfect. Or we don't enter our blossoms because we don't think our blossoms are pretty enough, or large enough, or perfect enough to be in the flower show. Then I often hear people say "My gosh, my flower is so much better than that one and it took ribbon, but I threw mine away!"

THE MORAL: Enter your blossom in the show and contribute to that explosion of color. Let the judges decide and you might be surprised! As a wise friend of mine once said "What's a flower show without flowers?"



**Always remember that tomorrow grows out of today.**



## 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



**Member Profile: Chris Trautmann**



Chris Trautmann has over 40 years of experience growing Rhododendrons. After earning his B.A. in marketing at the University of Cincinnati and working as a tennis club pro for a few years, Chris joined the ARS in 1976. He founded Mowbray Gardens in Cincinnati the following year. Chris placed his first Rhody ad in the ARS Bulletin in 1981. He started hybridizing and raising seed in 1985. Chris moved to Florence in 2011 to take his Rhody breeding to the next level. He’s currently flowering 300-400 new seedlings a year for evaluation.

Here are a few of the rhodies bred by Chris:

<p><b>'Fire Mountain'</b></p>	<p><b>'Pineapple Delight'</b></p>	<p><b>'Dr. Edward Morbius'</b></p>
<p><b>'Amber Prinz'</b></p>	<p><b>'Brainiac'</b></p>	<p><b>'Trophy Wife'</b></p>

For fun, Chris enjoys nitro drag racing. He collects gems and minerals. He’s an audiophile with a world-class audio system including tubes and vintage stereo gear. He listens to classic rock and classical music. He has two cats, Moose and Buddy.



**Did you ever wonder why Veterans Day is on November 11<sup>th</sup> and does not change?  
World War I ended on the 11<sup>th</sup> month and the eleventh day and the eleventh hour.**

## Chapter Contacts

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## Calendar of Events

### 2018

- November 1 3rd Annual Rhody Cruisers Toy Drive  
drop off donations 4-6:30 pm at  
A&W, 1690 Hwy 101
- November 1 Business After Hours, 5-7 pm at  
Coastal Fitness Plaza, 2285 Hwy 101
- November 20 Chapter meeting Speaker: Ali Sarlak on  
plants from Iran  
Pre-meeting dinner at ICM
- December 2 Christmas Potluck gift exchange at  
Odd Fellows Campground  
Gather at noon, lunch at 1:00pm

### 2019

- January 15 Chapter meeting  
Speaker: Mike Bones on Germany  
Pre-dinner meeting at Rosa's
- February 19 Chapter meeting  
Speaker: Steven Krebs, ARS Western Vice  
President  
Pre-dinner meeting at Bridgewater
- March 19 Chapter meeting  
Speaker: Tim Walsh  
Pre-dinner meeting at ICM
- April 13-14 Siuslaw ARS Early Rhody Show
- April 16 Chapter meeting  
Auction  
Pre-dinner meeting at Ichiban
- May 15-19 ARS Annual Convention, Malvern, PA
- May 18-19 Siuslaw ARS Late Rhody Show
- May 21 Chapter meeting  
Flower Show wrap up
- June 18 Summer picnic
- Sep 27-29 ARS Fall Conference, Parksville, BC, Canada