

## OCTOBER 2018

Siuslaw Chapter

American Rhododendron Society

P.O. Box 1701

Florence OR. 97439-0111

FACEBOOK PAGE

CALLED COASTAL RHODODENDRONS



### UPCOMING CHAPTER EVENTS:

**Meeting topic:** Tuesday, October 16<sup>th</sup>. The program is doing cuttings with Terry Henderson of Log Cabin Nursery in Springfield, Oregon. His nursery is a wholesale rhododendron nursery near the McKenzie river.

**Board Meeting:** Tuesday, October 9<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, October 16<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 Ichiban, 1179 Highway 101. Call Fred Guettler at 360-608-9779 or email him at [fhg9779@gmail.com](mailto:fhg9779@gmail.com) to **reserve your place at the dinner table!** Be there for great fun, great food, & great company.

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

**Cookie Team :** Dawn Carmody, Pat Warner

**Hospitality Table:** Sandi Jensen

**Coffee:** Mike Bones



### **Other Oregon Chapter Meetings and websites**

**EUGENE CHAPTER:** Changing their place and Date to 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month at The Springs at Greer Gardens, 1282 Goodpasture Island Road, Eugene, Oregon Website : [eugene-chapter-ars.org](http://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](http://rhodies.org)

**TUALATIN VALLEY CHAPTER:** First Tuesday of the month at 6:45 pm Washington County Fire District 2 31370 NW Commercial Street North Plains, OR 97133 Website : [tuatitINVALLEYARS.org](http://tuatitINVALLEYARS.org)

**SOUTHWESTERN OREGON:** On October and November meetings will be 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 potluck no set date so far  
Website : [sworegonars.org](http://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](http://Arswillamette.org)

All other web sites can be found on [rhododendron.org](http://rhododendron.org) under chapters web sites.



Hello,

I'm Patricia Swift. I'll be taking over the newsletter from Sandi Jensen.

I'm new to Florence and not nearly as well-connected as Sandi. I'm going to need your help as I try to make the newsletter as good as it has been for the last 7 years. I hope you'll email me your Rhody-related news and pix. Maybe you took a picture of an especially beautiful Rhody on your travels, and you'd like to share it with the group? Or maybe you have a garden-related saying that inspires you? Please email such items to me at [pcswift@outlook.com](mailto:pcswift@outlook.com).



#### Past Presidents Message by Larry Jensen

September is one of my favorite months. The weather is finally cooling off a bit with a shower now and then. The salmon are starting to show up. I went with our daughter Jacki and we caught a few Coho's. Around home we have all the good produce. Tomatoes, zucchini, apples, grapes and so on. It's a tasty time of the year as well.

In April through May our native dogwood (*cornus nuttallii*) shows off great flowers. By September, the seeds of the



dogwoods have formed, bringing the birds to harvest them. We have flocks of robins, grey and Stellar Jays and many other small birds, but the show is the Pileated Woodpeckers! Their calls as they fly through the woods sounds like recordings I've heard of jungle birds. They are about the size of a crow, and when they land on the flimsy dogwood branches, they hang upside down while they eat. The flickers also show up for the dogwood



feast.

This is the time of year to plant. I have figured out where I can squeeze in a few more fine plants. About 25 or so. If you aren't going to plant more rhodies, you might want to check the mulch around existing plants. The bark decomposes and the roots can become exposed. If this has happened to your plants, a little new mulch may be in order.

The October meeting is a cutting exchange. Bring cuttings to share and learn how to do them. Terry Henderson of Log Cabin Nursery fame will take the cuttings, root them, and grow them on for us. Then we should get them back in the spring.

Looking around the garden, I've seen flower buds on plants that haven't bloomed before. Niveum is one that I'm looking forward to seeing bloom.

Lastly Sandi is resigning as newsletter editor. Patricia Swift has offered to take over. I'm sure it will be a seamless transition.



Yes, it's true, I am resigning from being the editor of the Macrophyllum. I have been feeling for some time now that the newsletter needed a new fresh approach that I was no longer able to offer. After 7 years of doing this, every issue became a struggle to get it out in time and to provide new and different articles and views. I will continue to take pictures, and share with Patricia some of the beautiful rhodies that we have here. However, I hope to eliminate the late night hours that I have spent on the computer. I will still be doing the Eugene Fuchsia, Begonia, and Geranium society newsletter, but I'll have time off until March for that. I'm looking forward to a long winters nap. Please help Patricia by introducing yourselves so she will get to know everyone. Also, please search your minds, magazines and books for articles and garden sayings that she can use in the newsletter. I understand how difficult it can be to find interesting content for the newsletter every month. Also, you might see my name on your email copy of the newsletters for a while, as I will continue to distribute the newsletter until she has everyone's emails entered into her computer. Thank You for all the years of positive feedback. It has been greatly appreciated. Sandi Jensen



### **Washington Hybridizers Create Plants For the Future What Should A New Hybrid Rhododendron Be? Gwen Bell Seattle, Washington**

Recently a gardener suggested that the popularity of rhododendrons is waning and the use of perennials is on the rise. That may be true, but it is hard to beat the use of evergreen rhododendrons and azaleas as the "bones" of the garden. We know that the landscape value of rhododendrons is infinite and that there is a tremendous variety to work with-sizes from creepers to trees, beautiful colored flowers (with no thorns) and foliage with shapes, colors, indumentum, bristles and scales that are definitely not boring. We can find fragrance in flowers and leaves. We can make a choice of semitropical rhododendrons to the very hardy. In addition, they are of easy culture.

Fortunately for us, rhododendrons are seldom costly and, heaven forbid, they may live in our gardens longer than we do!

Rhododendrons of generations ago were primary crosses between species and, as a rule, a matter of guesswork-not scientific. As the nurserymen and gardeners gained commonsense knowledge of these new ornamentals, they crossed and re-crossed their plants to create new hybrids, always seeking to improve the rhododendrons for their particular conditions and commercial possibilities. Decades later these hybrids were crossed more often with other hybrids. Whether the breeders realized it or not, they were creating an enormous mix of genes. From the seedlings a few really superior rhododendrons did result, but hordes of inferior rhododendrons proved not as attractive or useful as the parent plants. A few gave a desirable "color break," increased hardiness or developed certain rare characters such as fragrance. Now, about 200 years later, hybridizing is still a gamble. It's a lot of fun, too. Many years ago a hybridizer, Guy Nearing, stated that it might take 10,000 seedlings of one cross to produce that one superior, unique rhododendron. How lucky are you? So much enthusiasm developed in the Seattle Chapter of the ARS for this hybridizing treasure hunt that a study group was formed. It grew fast, crowding our small meeting place and requiring its division into a north and a south group. Early on much of the discussion revolved around the basics or rules (unwritten) and goals for hybridizing rhododendrons. Of course, most of our experimenting has used the many types of rhododendrons that we can grow successfully in the benign Pacific Northwest climate.

**Copied from the Willamette Chapter of the ARS October 2018 newsletter**



## **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

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**Depresso....The feeling you get when you're out of coffee**



Anagallis



Burgundy stars petunia



**Old Ways won't open new doors**



This is one of my favorite species rhododendrons. R. orbiculare



R. lacteum



R. arizelum



R. ochraceum



R. niveum



**Nothing makes a person more productive than the last minute.**