

Siuslaw Chapter
American Rhododendron Society
PO Box 1701
Florence, OR 97439-0111

February 2019

Macrophyllum

Upcoming Chapter Events: Meeting on Feb 19



Board meeting	Tuesday, February 12 at 6:30pm Sandi and Bill Hennigs' home 05638 Martin Rd., Florence
Siuslaw Chapter meeting	Tuesday, February 19 6:30pm for refreshments, 7:00 for the meeting The Presbyterian Church of the Siuslaw 3996 Highway 101, Florence
Meeting topic	Stephen Krebs on Form Plus Function
Pre-meeting dinner	ICM at 5:00pm 1498 Bay Street, Florence Please call or email Sandi Hennig by February 15 at 541-997-2489 or flendish42@gmail.com to reserve your place at the dinner table.
Cookie Team	Jo Ann Wilson, Connie Rosenbalm
Hospitality Table	Board members
Coffee	Mike Bones
Gallagher Park Work Party	Saturday, April 6, 10:00am—2:00pm Rain or shine. Lunch will be provided. Bring loppers, rakes, and wheelbarrows.

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On the internet

- Facebook:
[Coastal Rhododendrons](#)
- Web site:
<http://www.siuslawars.org>

Our February Meeting Program:

Form Plus Function: Building a Better Rhododendron

Stephen Krebs, Ph. D.

Stephen Krebs is the Director of the David G. Leach Research Station of the Holden Arboretum in Kirtland, OH. He is the Eastern Vice President of the American Rhododendron Society.

Rhododendrons have been hybridized in the West for almost 200 years, resulting in over 25,000 registered cultivars. This large number of plants reflects their popularity as well as the enthusiasm of hybridizers who have recombined the vast ornamental diversity of genus *Rhododendron* via interspecific cross pollinations. Overwhelmingly, and not surprisingly, the breeding emphasis has been on aesthetic attributes such as flowers and foliage because most backyard hybridizers are pursuing an enjoyable avocation and are less concerned with broad consumer or commercial success. Improvement of adaptive traits has been largely focused on cold hardiness, resulting in a diverse array of rhododendrons that can be grown in USDA hardiness zones 4 and 5. Yet many other functional traits have not been addressed, traits such as disease and pest resistance, heat tolerance, drought tolerance, and high pH adaptability that could improve the landscape performance of rhododendrons and expand their commercial market. In many cases, species that have these valuable features can be found in the wild. As an example, my presentation demonstrates how a species from Taiwan, *R. hyperythrum*, can be hybridized to combine its resistance to the rhododendron root rot pathogen *Phytophthora cinnamomi* with a broader array of ornamental traits. Significantly, increased disease resistance also confers adaptability to warmer climates such as the Gulf South (hardiness zone 9), regions where culture of large leafed rhododendrons has heretofore been limited. Resistant cultivars can be grown on their own roots, or serve as rootstocks for grafting susceptible scions, and I will give an update on our evaluations of experimental and commercially available rootstocks that can provide protection against this soil pathogen.

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.

Other Western Chapter Meetings

Other Chapter Websites

Eugene Chapter:

www.eugene-chapter-ars.org

Portland Chapter:

<http://rhodies.org>

Tualatin Valley Chapter:

www.tualatinvalleyars.org

SW Oregon Chapter:

<http://sworegon-ars.org>

Willamette Chapter:

<http://arswillamette.com>

Eureka Chapter:

www.eurekarhody.org

Noyo Chapter:

www.noyochapterars.com

Pilchuk Chapter:

www.rhododendron.info

All other web sites can be found at:

<http://rhododendron.org>

under chapters web sites

Eugene Chapter	Meetings are usually on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at The Springs at Greer Gardens, 1280 Goodpasture Island Road, Eugene, Oregon, at 7:00pm. On Feb 20, Stephen Krebs will give his Form Plus Function presentation.
Portland Chapter	Meets at All Saints Episcopal Church, 4033 SE Woodstock Ave, Portland, OR, on the 3rd Thursday of each month, September through May. The program begins at 7 pm. On Feb 21, Stephen Krebs will give his Form Plus Function presentation.
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 Chapter	No meeting in February.
Willamette Chapter	Second Wednesday of the month, Sep thru May, at 7:00pm. See notice below.
Eureka Chapter	Meets on the 4th Thursday of the month. On Feb 28, Glen Jamieson will speak on Plant Exploring in China.
Noyo Chapter	General meetings are held on the 4th Wednesday at the Presbyterian Church in Fort Bragg. Dinner is at David's Deli beforehand. On Feb 28 the speaker will be Glen Jamieson.
Pilchuk Chapter Marysville, WA	Meets the first Thursday of each month, September thru May. February's meeting is the annual potluck.

All are invited to our next meeting of the Willamette Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society on Wednesday, February 13, 2019. It will be at 7:00 pm in the Carrier Room of the First United Methodist Church, 600 State Street, Salem, Or 97301. Refreshments will be served.

It will be an exciting program by

STEVE HOOTMAN

Executive Director and Curator of the Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden in Federal Way, Washington, a wondrous place filled with a world-class collection of rhododendrons and companion trees and plants. He is an expert hunter of new and rare plant species from travels to the far reaches of China, the Himalayas, and surrounding areas. Steve will talk about his most interesting expeditions—it will be a visual treat.

If you want to know where species rhododendrons and companion plants are found, this is the program.

January 2019 Siuslaw Chapter Meeting



President's Report

By Mike Bones

We are into February 2019, time seems to be going by faster even though the days are getting longer. I can now work outside until after 6pm. Pulling weeds, yes, we do have weeds that grow in every season here on the Oregon coast. Pulling them before they go to seed is the answer. I actually put all of my weeds into a pile, adding bark and turning it over every few months, sure makes good soil for planting. Our spring has come early, or is it that we just didn't have a winter? I have many different bulbs, which make great companion plants for in front of Rhododendrons. Actually the lilies make great plants to plant among the rhododendrons, depending upon the variety as to how tall they get, the late summer color and fragrance is worth their growing, and they really don't take any care, just add a little slug bait as they start to emerge from the ground. Speaking of SLUGS, I was visiting a friend's garden the other day and was looking at their agapanthus plants, WOW, there were actually hundreds of tiny snails covering the leaves. This mild year was a heaven for slugs and snails. Those little buggers will eat anything green and other debris. They even clean up after the neighbor's dog.

The early blooming Rhododendrons are my favorite. To see color after our winters is a refreshing and welcoming sight. Some that are through blooming here at our place, Christmas Cheer, Lees Scarlet and Rosa Mundi and are still available. Seta is coming into full bloom, it has always been one of my favorites with its little two inch long flowers with those dark stamens which make it stand out from a distance. One of its parents, R. moupinense has also started to flower. A few of the red Rhododendrons are starting to bloom in the area, Cornubia in our Rhododendron Park has started showing color as are some of the R. strigillosum hybrids in the area. Noyo Dream is one of Dannis favorites as it seems to bloom for a longer period.



R. 'Seta' (Photo: Mike Bones)

Dr. Stephen Krebs will be our guest speaker for our February 19th meeting. He is a Scientist and Director of the David Leach Research Station at the Holden Arboretum in Kirtland Ohio. The Arboretum is one of the largest arboreta and botanical gardens in the United States with more than 3,600 acres devoted to the collections and gardens. Steve's presentation will be both educational and entertaining with pictures of lots of Rhododendrons.

Keep Gardening, it helps you stay young.



Above: R. 'Noyo Dream'
Photo: Colin Talcroft



Right: R. 'Cornubia' at Gallagher Park
Photo: Mike Bones

Visiting Hinsdale Garden

By Gordon Wylie



Rhododendron 'Mrs. G. W. Leak'
at the Hinsdale Garden in Reedsport

As most readers know, the O. Howard Hinsdale Garden is located on Oregon Highway 38 about five miles east of Reedsport. It's an easy day trip from anywhere in western Oregon, with good scenery to enjoy on the way there and back home. If home base is in the Willamette Valley, a 'loop' drive utilizing different routes going over and along Highway 101 is fun. Blooming season for the rhododendrons, magnolias and camellias is going well by March, and continues through April, May and in to June.

There are several ways to enjoy strolling through Hinsdale Garden. One is to choose an open garden day hosted by the Friends of Hinsdale Garden. This option provides parking at the Elk View Kiosk about a mile west of the garden, with shuttle transportation to a central point in the main garden. Garden maps are available, interpretive signs are posted and you might also purchase a plant propagated from a Hinsdale cultivar. Due in part to the government 'shut-down', dates this year are not yet firm. But one is almost certain, that is May 11, the Saturday of Mother's Day weekend. Once established, the dates will likely be posted on the Friends of Hinsdale Garden [website](#), and perhaps the BLM, Coos Bay District site.

A second option is a self-guided tour. You can choose this on any day you wish throughout the year. Some cautionary remarks about this alternative: There is no public parking in the garden. Both the main entrance and an eastern entrance have locked gates, and you must walk in to the garden after parking across the highway. Be cautious of traffic in crossing, and of course respectful of any persons or crews that might be working in the garden.

Another possibility is for groups of perhaps a dozen or more traveling by van or bus. Please contact me at 541 895-2864 or lgwone@gmail.com. We'll put something together to unlock one of those gates...and maybe even offer a guide for your tour.

Garden Visit Etiquette

DON'T:

- Take cuttings, seed heads, fruits, or berries
- Wander from paths into planted beds
- Talk to others in your group when a guide or owner is speaking
- Show up before opening time
- Stay after closing time
- Ask to use the facilities in the house
- Take food into the garden without permission
- Drop refuse, papers, or the like
- Take photographs or set up a tripod without asking permission

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Siuslaw Chapter

American Rhododendron
Society

ROY Nominations

Click [here](#) to email your
suggestions to Bill
Hennig.

Rhododendrons of the Year 2020-2024 Nominations needed by February 12, 2019

Don't forget that our chapter has been tasked with nominating plants for the ROY (Rhododendron Of the Year) award in four categories:

- elepidote (without scales),
- lepidote (with scales),
- evergreen azalea
- deciduous azalea.

To be selected for a ROY award a plant must have excellent foliage and flowers, have an attractive plant habit, be pest and disease resistant, and be cold hardy for our region.

We need to come up with 5 of each category as recommendations for the ARS North West region, which includes chapters in Oregon, Washington, and British Columbia. We need your nominations by the February 12th board meeting so that we can submit the list to District 4 (Oregon). Please take a look at your garden, or those of others, think back to the flower shows, go on line, however you can. It is your chapter and we need your input. Your Board will choose the top 5 of each category and submit them.

Siuslaw Chapter ARS 2019 Flower Shows

Early Show April 13-14, 2019

Late Show May 18-19, 2019



The Blue Angels Rhododendron

Gene Cockeram discovered a small rhody growing under his R. 'Sappho'. Since the small plant reminded him of the famous flight squadron, Gene called it The Blue Angels.

Rhododendron Parade 2019

Dawn Carmody is heading up an effort to have an ARS float in this year's Florence Rhododendron Festival Grand Floral Parade on Sunday, May 19, 2019. The theme of this year's parade is "Coastal Canvas"

1. Theme integration suggestion: Rhododendrons are the floral colors that paint the coastal foliage canvas. Attached to the roof rack signs, two large paint brushes sticking straight up, and possibly the inclusion of a paint pallet covering the diameter of the rear tire on the back of the Jeep.



2. Two vinyl roof rack signs: Florence Events Center, Flower Show & Plant Sale
3. Club outreach: distributing bookmarks while walking alongside the Jeep. Sharing distribution among club members as each would like. Custom bookmarks being made from card-making-members designing some of the bookmarks.
4. Occupants (suggestions): (1) the oldest club member, (2) the overall show winner, (3) the grand prize, (4) the driver.
5. Two American Rhododendron Society signs for the front doors, (or substitute Coastal Canvas Parade symbol if ARS signs are unavailable) to be attached with magnetic tape.
6. Please bring extra rhodies for the Jeep float directly to Dawn's home at 864 Kingwood Street or to the Florence Events Center when you bring in your entries. She would like to have 2 tarps for volunteer flowers and foliage for the decoration of the Jeep float. Cedar boughs make nice foliage.

Siuslaw Chapter ARS 2019 Flower Shows

Early Show April 13-14, 2019

Late Show May 18-19, 2019

You can contact Dawn at 541-991-3818 with your ideas, or bring them to the next meeting.

Just a Walk in the Garden

By Sandi Jensen

We go to Eugene every weekend to do our grocery shopping, and sometimes, usually once a month, we will go early so we can see what is beginning to bloom in Hendricks Park. This garden is usually two weeks ahead of our garden here in the foothills on the leeward side of the coast range. We stopped by yesterday, and made the top loop beginning with the *Edgeworthia chrysantha*. This is a small shrub that blooms in January to February and carries a heady fragrance of warm honey. The next plant is the *Sarcococa* which perfumes the whole upper part of the park. The flowers are tiny white things and the berries which hold the seeds, look like coastal huckleberries, and the fragrance can be overwhelming on a warm day (which yesterday wasn't).

We made our way toward the *R. ririei*, admiring the new signs that have been placed in the park, making it easier to identify some of the plants. The *ririei* was in full bloom. It had suffered some freeze damage from the week before, but still looked pretty good. It is the earliest rhody to bloom in our area, and ours has gotten sizeable, and is loaded with bloom buds this year. I can hardly wait!

The point I guess I'm trying to make with this article is: You never know what you might see even on a short stroll through the garden unless you get out there and look! You have the Gallaghers Park garden, with some gorgeous rhododendrons in it, some of which are early bloomers!

We are putting together a tour of the Gerdemann Preserve garden, scheduled for March 5th. This is a not to miss garden in Yachats and contains some of the most spectacular species rhododendrons that I have ever seen. I will have a information sheet at the meeting, but if you cannot make it to the meeting, and would like to join us, please contact me either by email, or phone, and I will give you the information on how to join us. At any rate, take a look around at our beautiful bloomin' world!



Camellia
(above and right)

Calendar of Events 2019

February 12	Board meeting 6:30pm
February 19	Chapter meeting 7:00pm Speaker: Stephen Krebs, ARS Eastern Vice President Pre-dinner meeting at ICM
March 19	Chapter meeting Speaker: Tim Walsh Pre-dinner meeting at ICM
April 6	Gallagher Park Work Party 10:00-2:00 Rain or shine Bring loppers, rakes, and wheelbarrows
April 13-14	Siuslaw ARS Early Rhody Show Florence Events Center
April 16	Chapter meeting Auction Pre-dinner meeting at Ichiban
April 26-27	2019 Rhododendron Species Symposium Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden Federal Way, WA. Details here
May 4-5	Mendocino Coast Botanical Gardens Annual show and plant sale
May 11 (tentative)	Open Garden Day Hinsdale Garden, Reedsport
May 15-19	ARS Annual Convention, Malvern, PA The Philadelphia Story 2019 Details here .
May 18-19	Siuslaw ARS Late Rhody Show Florence Events Center
May 21	Chapter meeting Flower Show wrap up
June 18	Summer picnic
July 20	Gallagher Park Work Party 8:00-12:00
September 27-29	ARS Fall Conference, Parksville, BC, Canada

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