

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



Photo: Sandi Jensen

Macrophyllum

Upcoming Chapter Events: Meeting on February 18

Board meeting	Tuesday, February 11 at 6:30pm Sandi and Bill Hennig's home 05638 Martin Rd., Florence
Siuslaw Chapter meeting	Tuesday, February 18 6:30pm for refreshments, 7:00 for the meeting The Presbyterian Church of the Siuslaw 3996 Highway 101, Florence
Meeting topic	Bob Zimmerman from Chimacum Woods Nursery will speak on Arunachal Pradesh, a wilderness untouched.
Pre-meeting dinner	Ixtapa at 5:00pm 1015 Highway 101, Florence Please call or email Lee Goodenough by Feb 14 at 559-288-5658 or secretlgood@gmail.com to reserve your place at the dinner table.
Cookie Team	Deb Price, Pam Guettler, Jo Ann Wilson, Jody Driver
Hospitality Table	Board members
Coffee	Mike Bones

Inside this issue

February Meeting	2
ARS Mission Statement.....	2
Other Western Chapters.....	3
Your Favorite Rhody	3
January Meeting Pix.....	4
President's Message	5
Volunteers Needed.....	6
Flower Show Schedule.....	6
Florence Hone Show	6
50th Anniversary Dinner	7
Invite Your Friends.....	7
Gerdemann Garden Tour.....	7
Hinsdale Garden Open Days	7
Harold's Rhody Pick	8
ARS 75th Anniversary	9
Calendar & Contacts	10

On the internet

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

February Chapter Meeting Speaker: Bob Zimmerman on Arunachal Pradesh, a Wilderness Untouched



Our speaker this month is Bob Zimmerman of [Chimacum Woods Nursery](#) on the Olympic Peninsula.

Arunachal Pradesh, the "land of dawn-lit mountains," is the northeasternmost state of India. You don't want to miss this interesting presentation emphasizing Rhododendrons.

Robert (Bob) Zimmermann fell in love with rhododendrons over forty years ago. He began cultivating them on his kitchen stove and now grows species rhododendrons in the greenhouses of Chimacum Woods on the Olympic Peninsula. Although hybrids offer beautiful flowers, the rhododendron species are Bob's primary interest. Some 300 species populate the collection in his garden, providing a reliable source of seed and cuttings. He has paid particular attention to collecting plants true to the species description. Bob specializes in species rhododendrons from around the world, those hard to come by plants that we always look for but cannot find. Yes, he will be bringing a few plants to sell.

A "species" rhododendron is a non-hybridized plant, which en mass forms a stable population in the wild without human intervention.

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 & Events

Other Chapter Websites

Eugene Chapter:

www.eugene-chapter-ars.org

Portland Chapter:

<http://rhodies.org>

SW Oregon Chapter:

Web site inactive

Willamette Chapter:

<http://arswillamette.com>

Tualatin Valley Chapter:

www.tualatinvalleyars.org

Eureka Chapter:

www.eurekarhody.org

Noyo Chapter:

www.noyochapterars.com

Mt. Arrowsmith

Rhododendron Society:

<http://marsrhodos.ca>

All other web sites can be found at:

<http://rhododendron.org>

under chapters web sites

Eugene Chapter	Meetings are usually held on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at The Springs at Greer Gardens, 1282 Goodpasture Island Road, Eugene, Oregon, at 7:00pm. On February 19, Bob Zimmerman will give his talk on Arunachal Pradesh, a wilderness untouched, emphasizing Rhododendrons.
Portland Chapter	Meets at All Saints Episcopal Church, 4033 SE Woodstock Ave, Portland, OR, on the 3rd Thursday of the month, September through May. Social time begins at 7pm, the program at 7:30 pm. On February 20, Bob Zimmerman will give his talk on Arunachal Pradesh, a wilderness untouched.
Southwestern Oregon Chapter	No meetings in January or February. Meets on the 3rd Thursday of each month at 7 pm starting in March.
Willamette Chapter	Usually meets in Salem on the second Wednesday of the month, September thru April, at 7:00pm. Their February meeting will be on Monday, February 17 instead, to take advantage of Bob Zimmerman's talk on Arunachal Pradesh.
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, September to April. On Feb 4, Jay Lunn will present his program "Railroad Ridge – A Bit of Paradise in Idaho's White Cloud Mountains."
Eureka Chapter	Meets on the 4th Thursday of the month. On February 27, Bill McNamara, will talk about plant hunting for Quarry Hill Botanic Garden.
Noyo Chapter	General meetings are held on the 4th Wednesday of the month at the John Diedrich Center, 208 Dana Street, Fort Bragg. The speaker for the meeting on February 26 will be Bill McNamara, Executive Director Emeritus of the Quarryhill Botanical Garden.
Mt. Arrowsmith Rhododendron Society	Meets on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at the Qualicum Beach Civic Centre. On February 12, horticultural expert Rose Pruffer will explain how and when to prune Rhododendrons.

Do You Have a Favorite Rhododendron?

Would you like to share it with our members? If you have a picture, and you'd like to write a few lines about the characteristics of the Rhody and why you like it, we'd love to hear the details. Our *Macrophyllum* newsletter has had a feature called Collector's Corner, with interesting info about some of the rarer Rhodies and beautiful pictures. We could expand on that idea and include Rhodies that may be common, but still have endearing qualities like long blooming season, terrific color, or easy cultivation. Please email your pictures and descriptions to pcswift@outlook.com.

January 2020 Siuslaw Chapter Meeting



Veggie cookies photo: Mike Bones

Other photos: Myles Swift

President's Message

By Larry Jensen



We were in South Eugene January 22nd, and the weather was nice, so I suggested a trip to Hendrick's Park. The sarcococca fragrance is almost overpowering. There are what seems like hundreds of these planted as hedges. We walked to the southwest corner to find a mucronulatum in full bloom. Across the path, is a r. ririeii, about 15 feet tall, and beginning to bloom across the whole plant. Many years these blooms get frosted, turning them brown, but they are well worth growing especially in the coastal climates, if you have the room. On close inspection, we



discovered 2 airlayers on the r. ririeii. This is a type of propagation, I believe was started in England many years ago. You select a branch, scuff the bark, put moss on it and wrap in plastic. (This is a condensed version.)



The springlike weather is bringing some bloom 2 to 3 weeks earlier than usual to our garden. We have a r. ririeii and a mucronulatum showing some color, and several of the early blooming species have buds that are swelling, such as calophytum, sutchense, and strigillosum, a beautiful red with hairy stems.

This is a reminder that just because it is early in the year, don't forget to be aware that the rhodies are waking up, and will need feeding in the warmer climate at the coast. It will still be a couple of weeks before I fertilize here.



Photos: Sandi Jensen

Our speaker this month is Bob Zimmerman from Chimacum Woods Nursery on the Olympic Peninsula across the Hood Canal in Washington state. He grows some of the finest species plants available.

I'm hoping for some dry weather so I can work on the hillside. The older I get, the more I don't want to work in inclement weather. It is, however, perfect weather to play in the shop.

I'm looking forward to seeing you all at the meeting on February 18th. Remember the pre-meeting dinner is at Ixtapa, so call Lee Goodenough at 559-288-5658, or email her at secretlgood@gmail.com to reserve your place at the table.

Volunteers Needed For Siuslaw Chapter Flower Shows

Our chapter is one of the few that holds two Rhododendron flower shows every year, and it takes a lot of volunteers to make them happen. Day Farrald will serve as the Chair of the shows again this year. Day needs volunteers for judging and other jobs such as setup and teardown. He's also looking for donations for Late Show trophies. Day will bring signup sheets to the February meeting, or you can contact him to volunteer at 541-590-3161 or day817@outlook.com.

Siuslaw Chapter ARS 2020 Flower Shows

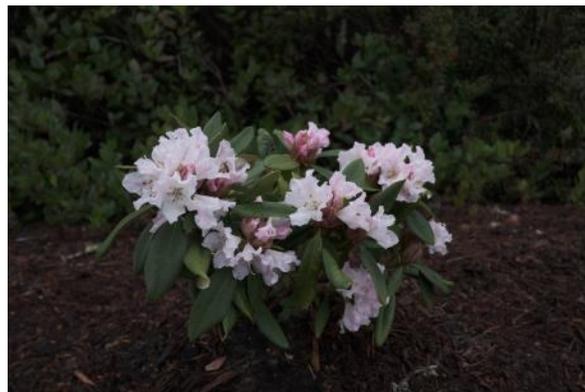
Early Show	April 18-19, 2020
Late Show	May 16-17, 2020

*Please bring those plastic bags
for plants that you've been
saving to our flower sales.*

Local Sights in January



Elk visiting the Bones' garden.
Photo: Mike Bones



R. 'Christmas Cheer' lights up our back yard.
Photo: Myles Swift

Florence Home and Garden Show

Our chapter will have a booth at the Florence Home and Garden Show, coming up on March 6-8 at the Florence Events Center. Fred Guettler is heading up this effort, as he has done in years past. This year's booth will be smaller, so we'll need fewer volunteers to staff the booth. Also, Fred is not distributing an address for attendees to request info after the show. We'll have just five Rhody selections to make it easier for everyone. Fred will have signup sheets at our February meeting, or you can contact him at 360-608-9779 or fhg9779@gmail.com to volunteer.

Siuslaw Chapter 50th Anniversary Dinner on May 18

Our chapter is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year. On April 7, 1970, Dr. DeVern Pinnock was elected first president with Kay Hutchison as secretary. Fifty years later, our chapter is still going strong with Larry Jensen as president and Kathy Bones as secretary. We're planning to celebrate with a special dinner instead of the May meeting. On Monday, May 18, we'll gather at the Elks Lodge near Highway 101 in Florence around 5:00 pm, with dinner starting at 6:00. There will be a no-host bar. We'll enjoy prime rib, chicken, or a veggie main course with plenty of delicious sides and desserts. We'll probably have a speaker, to be announced later. The dinner costs \$25 per person and is limited to just 50 of us, and we must be paid up by May 1. Contact Bill Hennig at 541-997-2489 or billhennig40@gmail.com for more info. You can reserve your spot at the banquet by mailing your check for \$25/person to [Pam Guettler](#) at Siuslaw Chapter, American Rhododendron Society, PO Box 1701, Florence, OR 97439-0111, or you can give her your check in person at the next meeting. Please do this well before May 1st. Remember, we're limited to a maximum of just 50 people, so don't delay!

Get Your Friends and Neighbors Involved

Please make a point of inviting your gardening friends and neighbors to one of our chapter meetings. We want to grow our chapter, and there's no better way than to show folks how much fun we have learning about Rhododendrons at our meetings. And don't forget to mention the delicious cookies!

You can also encourage your friends and neighbors to enter trusses in our flower shows in April and May. You don't have to be an ARS member. Lots of folks have Rhodies, and many would be surprised to hear that they might win a ribbon. Besides, gardeners love to show off their successes. The more blooms we have, the better the shows. Let's hope Mother Nature cooperates in the timing this year.

Valentine's Day Tour of Gerdemann Botanic Preserve in Yachats

The beautiful Gerdemann Garden just off Highway 101 in Yachats is holding their annual Valentine's Day tour on Friday, February 14, at 11:00 am, weather willing. The early Camellia species are starting to bloom, so there should be lots to see by mid-February. Check their [Facebook page](#) for details as they become available.

Open Days at the O. H. Hinsdale Garden in Reedsport

This year's open garden days hosted by The Friends and BLM are Saturdays April 11, April 25, and May 9, 2020, from 10am to 2pm. Park at the Dean Creek Elk Viewing Area, and a bus will take you on a short ride over to the garden. If you haven't been to this wonderful garden, you're really in for a treat. It's full of old Rhododendrons, Camellias, and Magnolias, all in a lovely wooded setting. I saw a Hawthorne tree there that really knocked my socks off. The plants are labelled so you can tell what you're looking at. Check the [Facebook page](#) of the Friends of the Hinsdale Garden for more info.

Harold's Rhododendron Pick for February Rhododendron 'Lee's Scarlet' by Harold Greer

As I write this on January 9th, 'Lee's Scarlet' is in full flower and it is nice to have some color in the garden. Actually 'Lee's Scarlet' can flower almost any time in the winter to early spring. When it freezes fairly hard, it will freeze the flowers that are open, but it generally has more unopened buds that will open when the weather warms a bit. It can take quite a bit of sun and will bud heavier in sun. It is a hybrid of *R. caucasicum*. The other parent is not known, but could be *R. arboretum*. It is an elepidote with larger leaves and flowers than the early flowering lepidotes like *R. dauricum*. It does not flower all at one time as many of the later flowering rhododendrons do, but it is nice to have early color that extends for a fairly long time, depending on the weather. And no the color is not really scarlet, but I am not the one that named it! It was hybridized by Lee in Europe probably before 1851 so it has been around a long time.

- Height in 10 years: 5'
- Hardiness: -5° F.
- Color: reddish pink
- Rating: 3/3/3 (that is for flower / plant & foliage / performance)
- Ease of propagation: easy
- Flower: good
- Foliage: good
- Vigor: good
- Would I buy it for its flowering time? yes
- Would I buy it for its color? yes



Photo of R. 'Lee's Scarlet' by Harold Greer

Update on
The American Rhododendron Society 75th Anniversary Convention



April 29-May 3, 2020, Hosted by ARS District 4
Heathman Lodge, Vancouver, WA

- Registrations have now surpassed 200.
- Plant sale vendors are now listed at the [website](#).
- The [Post-Tour](#) is SOLD OUT, with a wait-list being taken for a second bus.
The current tally on all tours is available on the [registration page](#).
- Room availability at the Heathman Lodge is already getting tight, so please reserve ASAP.
- The Winter edition of JARS is out with a full convention insert and printed registration form; otherwise online registration and print options are available at the convention website.

*If you want to learn more about Rhododendrons,
this is the place.*

We have 11 people from the Siuslaw Chapter signed up for the Spring Convention. That's great. If you are thinking about going, now is a good time to get registered. We'll have fantastic speakers from around the world, including Kenneth Cox from Glendoick in Scotland; Lionel de Rothschild from Exbury in England; Jens Nielsen, plant explorer from Denmark; Steve Krebs and Juliana Medeiros from the Holden Arboretum; Steve Hootman from the Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden; and Valerie Soza from the University of Washington.

This is one convention that you really don't want to miss. Check out the website:

ars75.org

Calendar of Events 2020

February 11	Siuslaw Chapter Board Meeting at 6:30pm Sandi and Bill Hennig's home 05638 Martin Rd., Florence
February 14	Gerdemann Garden in Yachats Valentines Day Tour at 11:00am
February 18	Siuslaw Chapter meeting 6:30pm for refreshments, 7:00 for the meeting Speaker is Bob Zimmerman from Chimacum Woods Nursery will speak on Arunachal Pradesh.
March 6-8	24th annual Florence Home & Garden Show Details here .
March 17	Siuslaw Chapter meeting 6:30pm for refreshments, 7:00 for the meeting Speaker is Glen Jamieson, ARS Journal Editor
April 11	Hinsdale Garden, Reedsport Open Garden Day, 10am -2pm
April 18-19	Siuslaw ARS Early Flower Show Florence Events Center
April 21	Siuslaw Chapter meeting and auction
April 25	Hinsdale Garden, Reedsport Open Garden Day, 10am-2pm
April 29-May 3	ARS 75th Anniversary Convention in Vancouver, WA 20/20 Vision: Looking Forward, Reflecting Back. More info here .
May 9	Hinsdale Garden, Reedsport Open Garden Day, 10am-2pm
May 16-17	Siuslaw ARS Late Flower Show Florence Events Center
May 18	Siuslaw Chapter 50th Anniversary Dinner Elk's Lodge, 1686 12th Street, Florence
June 16	Siuslaw ARS Chapter Picnic

Shop online at the ARS Store

You can benefit the ARS by using Amazon Smile. Whenever you want to shop at Target, Walmart, or Amazon, please start here:

[ARSStore.org](https://www.amazon.com/ARSStore.org)

Chapter Contacts

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