

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



Photo: Sandi Jensen

# Macrophyllum

## Upcoming Chapter Events: Nothing

The Siuslaw Chapter has no events scheduled in the near future, due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Our chapter members have been invited to several ARS Zoom meetings. Keep reading for details.

---

*Everyone please stay well.*

---

### Inside this issue

|                             |    |
|-----------------------------|----|
| President's Message.....    | 2  |
| Renew Your Membership.....  | 3  |
| Other Western Chapters..... | 4  |
| Willamette Invitation.....  | 4  |
| Eugene Invitation.....      | 5  |
| Looking Good.....           | 6  |
| Portland Invitation.....    | 7  |
| Harold's Pick.....          | 8  |
| Hinsdale Garden.....        | 9  |
| Blasted Blubber.....        | 10 |
| Azalea Archive.....         | 10 |
| Rhodos in Nova Scotia.....  | 11 |
| Fall Color.....             | 12 |
| Chapter Contacts.....       | 13 |

### On the internet

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

Permission is granted to reprint any portion of this publication provided credit is given to the author and Siuslaw Chapter ARS.

## October 2020 President's Message

By Larry Jensen

Well, the curse of 2020 continues for us. On our way home from grocery shopping, a carload of girls pulled in front of us. I may have totaled Sandi's truck and certainly did total their car, but no one was injured seriously. Just minor bumps and bruises. I hope everyone else's year is going a little better.

Now that it is going to be warmer and wet, I have a few rhodies to plant. I've been trying to pull some blackberry weeds. They are terrible! It is still a good time to buy a few new rhodies to plant.

With the covid numbers in Lane County still high, I certainly hope the vaccine comes soon! We really miss getting together with all of you. One of the roughest things to deal with is the isolation from our friends.

I've spent the last couple of weeks cutting firewood, pulling blackberries, and burning brush. My knees are getting a little better all of the time, but they sure don't like concrete floors.

We are off to town to pick up a rental vehicle. It is such a pain when something like this happens, but it could be worse!

This time of year I go around our place and look at plants that always look good, not just in bloom. Most of my favorites end up being species. When the bloom season arrives there are a lot of great hybrids.

Well, all I can say is I hope we can get together soon and also I hope everyone stays well.



---

## 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.

## It's Time to Renew Your ARS Membership

Now is the time to renew your membership in the American Rhododendron Society. Please mail your checks to Siuslaw Chapter ARS, PO Box 1701, Florence, OR, 97439. Our Treasurer, Stefanie, reports that 43 members have renewed so far.

| Category                                   | Annual Dues | Benefits   |
|--|-------------|--|
| Regular (1 or 2 members in same household) | \$40        | Quarterly ARS Journal<br>Invaluable info about growing Rhododendrons |
| Commercial & Corporate                     | \$90        | Annual listing in ARS Journal  |
| Sustaining                                 | \$75        | Extra \$35 supports ARS mission                                      |
| Sponsoring                                 | \$150       | Supports ARS mission & goals   |
| Student                                    | \$10        | No Journal   |
| Life Member—Single                         | \$1000      | Payable over 3 years   |
| Life Member—Family                         | \$1500      | Payable over 3 years   |

Your membership in the ARS supports test and display gardens. It gives you access to an outstanding seed exchange program and expert information on how to grow and care for your Rhodies. A membership in the ARS could be the perfect gift for a gardening friend. The ARS Journal alone contains a wealth of information about our favorite plants.

This is the time to step up and support our Siuslaw Chapter with your membership. Times are tough right now, and we want our chapter to survive the pandemic.

---

*You must renew your membership by Dec 1 to continue receiving the ARS Journal.*

---



*This 60-year-old Japanese maple provides lots of fall color in Grace Fowler-Gore's garden*

## Other Western Chapter Meetings & Events

### Other Chapter Websites

Eugene Chapter:  
[www.eugene-chapter-ars.org](http://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](http://www.tualatinvalleyars.org)

Eureka Chapter:  
[www.eurekarhody.org](http://www.eurekarhody.org)

Noyo Chapter:  
[www.noyochapterars.com](http://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

|  |  |
|--|--|
| Portland Chapter                       | Meets via Zoom on the 3rd Thursday of the month, September through May. Social time begins at 6:30pm. The chapter meeting starts at 7:00pm, followed by the presentation. On Nov 19, Mike Stewart will talk about Botanical Gems and their Journey to Your Garden. Siuslaw Chapter members are invited to attend ( <a href="#">details here</a> ). |
| Eugene Chapter                         | Meets via Zoom during the pandemic. On Nov 18, Harold Greer will talk about Rhododendrons, The World in Your Garden. Siuslaw Chapter members are invited to attend ( <a href="#">details here</a> ).   |
| Willamette Chapter                     | Meets via Zoom on the second Wednesday of the month, September thru April, at 7:00pm. On November 11, Gisele Schoniger's topic will be Rhody Revival—Restore, Revive & Regenerate: Building Healthy Soils Organically. Siuslaw members are invited to attend (see below).  |
| Mt. Arrowsmith<br>Rhododendron Society | Will meet on Nov 18 at 7:30pm, both in person and via Zoom. Steve Hootman will describe the amazing plants and sights seen on an expedition to the mountains of north Vietnam.   |
| Eureka Chapter                         | Will meet on December 3 via Zoom for a presentation by Don Wallace.  |

## An Invitation from the Willamette Chapter Gisele Schoniger on *Rhody Revival: Restore, Revive & Regenerate* Zoom on November 11, 2020 at 7:00pm

Siuslaw Chapter ARS members are invited to join the Zoom meeting hosted by the Willamette Chapter on Tuesday, Nov 11 at 7:30 pm. Here's the link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85728483907>

If you've heard that a successful garden starts with good soil, you've been given good advice! Soil is a complex ecosystem, which supports all life on earth. But what is "good" soil and how do you know if you have it? Learn the basics of how to restore, revive and regenerate your garden beds and grow healthy soil, grow regal rhodies and enjoy bodacious blooms using natural and organic materials. We'll talk about the benefits of organics versus synthetics and the impact on your soil, overall growth, and a possible hybrid option.

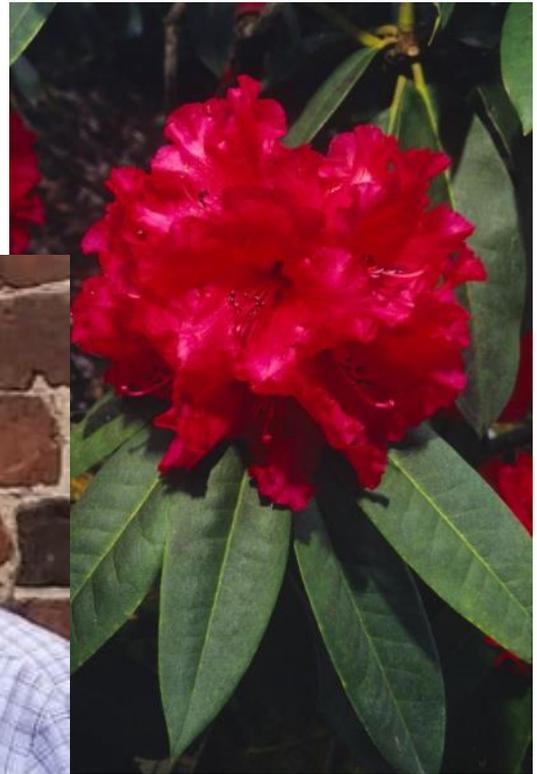
Gisele Schoniger is an Organic Gardening Educator at Kellogg Garden Products. In her 35+ years in the Garden Industry, Gisele has accumulated a wide range of experience and knowledge.

An Invitation from the Eugene Chapter  
Harold Greer on *Rhododendrons, The World in your Garden*  
November 18, 2020 at 7:00pm

The Eugene Chapter of the ARS has invited us to join their Zoom meeting this month.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86709423457?pwd=WHIVNFNuWkc1OEhIMWtzbmZ1QUU3QT09>

Harold will share pictures and information about where our rhododendrons originate and how much of the world is actually represented in our gardens.



*Rhododendron 'Taurus'*



*R. 'Grace Seabrook'*

Harold Greer is a world-famous Rhody expert who also happens to be an associate member of our chapter. Harold is a frequent contributor to this newsletter.

## You Are Looking Good: Tips on Setting up for Online Zoom Meetings

by Myles and Patricia Swift

We use meeting software because we want to see each other. Here are some ways to help with that. First you'll need to install the Zoom app if you don't already have it. You can get this free app from your computer or phone's App Store.

Start by setting the height of your camera. Ideally it is at or slightly above your eye level when you are sitting in the position you plan to use for the meeting. You can tilt your screen a little up or down to get your face to show up around the middle of the screen. Start Zoom and click Settings and then Video to see yourself on the screen. You want your face in the middle of that screen if possible. At a meeting with many people the individual attendees will be seen in smaller windows and location within each window is more important. If you are looking up at your nose or down at the top of your head move the position of your camera up or down.

If the light behind you is stronger than the light on your face others will not be able to see you. A light at eye level that is in front and to the side works well. A light on each side is better at eliminating shadows. A light with a dimmer will help. Once you get good lighting you can reduce overhead lights. Shut off other lights behind you that you can see on the screen. Now look at yourself on the screen for things like reflections on glasses or flashes from shiny jewelry. That may require moving lights or relocating yourself or your computer or phone. Look to see if there is anything distracting in the background around you that needs to be moved.

If you'd like to have a different background behind you, use the Zoom setting called Virtual Background to use a picture instead. Press the + icon to add a picture of your own to the display of Virtual Backgrounds. Then select that small thumbnail of the background you want. You should see it behind you on the screen. Simpler pictures seem to work better than complicated ones.

You can close the Zoom app once you're done changing the settings. Next time you join a meeting, those settings will apply to your Zoom room.

Once the meeting has started stay still. Your image will partially disappear until you have been stable for a few seconds. The less you move the less you affect the total amount of data being used. This is more important the more people there are in the meeting. A stationary chair or sofa is best. If your chair tilts or pivots you need to be more aware of movements.

Zoom is sending your current screen to the host. Before the meeting starts you should stop any software that can pop up things like notifications, messages or social networks.

While the meeting is in progress, you may be able to use a chat window to communicate with another participant or the host without disrupting the meeting. Press the Chat button at the bottom of your Zoom room to use this feature. Note: sometimes the host may choose to turn this feature off.

---

*We hope to see you online!*

---

## An Invitation from the Portland Chapter Mike Stewart on *Botanical Gems and their Journey to Your Garden* Thursday, Nov 19, 2020 at 7:00pm via Zoom

The Portland Chapter of the ARS has invited us to join their Zoom meeting this month.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83298560721?pwd=U3RiTytTbXE3ejlDRVpiR2NmMkd2QT09>

Mike Stewart will reprise the presentation he gave at the Western Regional Conference in Parksville, B.C., in September of 2019. Before the early 18th century, Europeans had no knowledge of plants from North America, South America or the Himalayas. This program tells the stories of those very early explorers who broke trails into previously unknown regions of the world searching for new botanical treasures. These men and women were among the first to risk, and sometimes give their lives, in search of the botanical gems that we have in our gardens today. This chapter of the story centers around plant exploration on the North American continent with a special emphasis on the Pacific Northwest and the adventures and discoveries of the great Scottish Botanist, David Douglas.

### About the Speaker

Mike Stewart has been an essential contributor to the world of rhododendrons for decades, having held all the most significant positions with the Society and as owner with his wife of a highly successful rhododendron nursery. Mike is a past President of the Portland Chapter of the ARS, a past President of the American Rhododendron Society and Past President of the Rhododendron Species



Foundation and Botanical Garden (RSBG) in Federal Way. Mike and his wife Maria recently retired as owners of Dover Nursery, where for the past 40 years they propagated and grew over 1200 different hybrid and species rhododendrons, shipping some 40,000 plants each spring to garden centers throughout the US and Canada. He is a talented photographer and natural speaker widely acknowledged for the quality of his presentations. Mike has spearheaded the renovation of the Van Veen Nursery, famous for its propagation, which was bequeathed to the Portland Chapter by Kathy Van Veen on her death. He has, since retirement, been expanding the already beautiful gardens on the grounds of his and Maria's home on the property of the former Dover Nursery. The expanded front garden includes a rockery that displays dwarf rhododendrons, dwarf conifers and many other slow growing alpine type plants, which they call "the arboretum." The many interesting, and sometime large, trees provide the landmarks they rely on when they're trying to locate each other in the landscape. They have also just finished a two-year project they call "the species walk," which meanders through the forested portion of the garden, displaying large-leaf species rhododendrons. The total garden now covers 5 acres, and will be featured on a tour when Portland hosts the 2022 ARS Spring convention.

## Harold's Rhododendron Pick for November Rhododendrons 'Grace Seabrook' and 'Taurus'

'Grace Seabrook' or 'Taurus'?

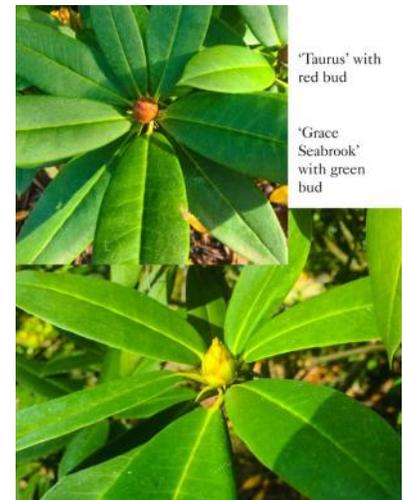
I can write the exact same thing about both. These two hybrids have the same parents, 'The Honorable Jean Marie de Montague' x *R. strigillosum*. The crosses were made by two different people in different places, though at about the same time. 'Grace Seabrook' was hybridized by Cecil Seabrook in the Tacoma, Washington area. 'Taurus' was hybridized by Dr. Frank Mossman of Vancouver, Washington. I never met Cecil Seabrook, but knew the only person he gave cuttings to, who was John Eichelser, very well. Some of you may know the rhododendron 'Lori Eichelser' which was named after his daughter, but I digress from the subject at hand.



'Taurus' as I said came from Dr. Frank Mossman who was a great friend. Frank was better known in the rhododendron world than Cecil and consequently 'Taurus' is better known. 'Taurus' also received a Superior Plant Award from the ARS. Only six people have ever produced a plant that received a Superior Plant Award: Halfdan Lem, Warren Berg, Frank Mossman, Charles Dexter, David Leach and "embarrassingly" Harold Greer. Again, I digress.

'Grace Seabrook' (left) and 'Taurus' (right)

I like both and to me there is no difference in quality with the two plants. The only difference between the two is that 'Taurus' has red growth and flower buds and 'Grace Seabrook' has green buds. In flower, I can't tell them apart and I have 10' plants of both planted side by side, plus an extra 'Grace Seabrook' planted by our entry way. Both 'Taurus' and 'Grace Seabrook' are generally sterile and will not make seed or give pollen, though Merle Sanders, one of our long passed Eugene Chapters members did collect one open pollinated seed pod from which he grew one weak seedling that finally flowered. Now the facts about the plants, "just the facts ma'am", remember the old TV program *Dragnet* and *Sargent Friday*!



|  |                   |
|--|-------------------|
| Height in 10 years: 5' or maybe 6' in good conditions              | Hardiness: -5° F. |
| Rating: 4/4/4 (that is for flower / plant & foliage / performance) | Color: bright red |
| Ease of propagation: medium  | Vigor: good       |

## The O. Howard Hinsdale Garden in Reedsport

### By Gordon Wylie

Though it often feels as though we've been in lockdown all year...or more, 2020 began pretty much as any other year for the first two or three months. Early flowers, including magnolia bloom spotted as we slowed while driving by Hinsdale Garden mid-February, was a friendly reminder of winter drawing to a close. And of many more gardens and flowers to be enjoyed in the weeks and months ahead.

In mid-March, as we were about to deliver a pickup load of plants to the Reedsport Friends of Hinsdale Garden to sell during hosted open garden days, the Bureau of Land Management cancelled the first scheduled date—April 11. A few days later, the Bureau announced the remaining two hosted days in May had been eliminated. We protested full cancellation as premature but, as we know now, the folks at BLM correctly anticipated rapidly growing restrictions brought about by the now familiar, and definitely unwelcome, Covid 19.

So how did the garden do during this decidedly different year? Let's take a look.

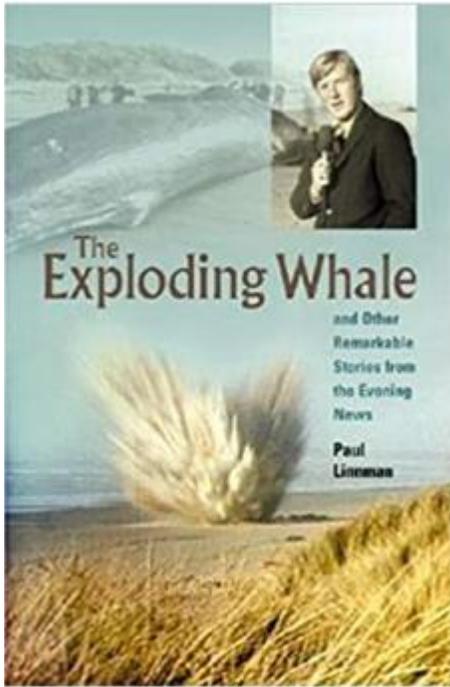
Early bad news was abrupt failure of the footbridge providing access between the main garden and its eastern portion. Some problems with that bridge were noticed and repaired last year. Further interim fixes were expected to maintain use at least through this year while planning for a replacement. But defects accelerated rapidly, mandating immediate removal for safety reasons; this action also saved permanent footings for potential use with a new bridge. Funding for a replacement is a priority request this year, the Bureau goal being a new bridge in place in 2021.

Among good news was completion of underground main lines through the entire garden for the automated irrigation system. A building housing the water intake from Reedsport, outgoing lines to irrigation zones, the master control and related equipment now stands at a central point. BLM Botanist Jennie Sperling and this year's summer intern, Jordan Mao, have been busy fine tuning the amount of water supplied to all the plants and trees throughout the garden. This project, spurred in part by an ARS Endowment Fund grant, is a significant improvement over temporary measures used since renovation began more than ten years ago. Another improvement is structure for permanent information signs near where the Hinsdale home once stood. This is funded through a donation from the Reedsport Friends group derived from plant sales and donations on hosted open garden days. During a mid-October visit, we also saw a good number of (air layer propagated) recently planted rhododendron clones, and the garden overall was looking good.

Of course none of these things happen without people, and some others should be recognized. Steve Samuels, now retired archeologist with the BLM but continuing as a volunteer, brings his special expertise. City of Reedsport community support, primarily through the Friends, is headed by longtime chair Sue Martino. John Harper, BLM Recreation Planner, supports through the inevitable paper work and more. Glenn Harkleroad, Manager at the Coos Bay office (growing Hinsdale sourced plants in his home garden) is a ready advocate.

A beautiful redwood bench in memory of Bob MacIntyre has been completed. We hope virus restrictions will be in the past so as to allow its dedication in Hinsdale Garden next year.

## The 50th Anniversary of Blasted Blubber in Florence Zoom on November 12, 2020



### A Conversation with Paul Linnman

It happened on November 12, 1970. Fifty years later, it still remains one of the most talked about (and chuckled about) events in Oregon history. It is estimated that the video capturing the moment has been viewed upwards of 350 million times across various websites, becoming one of the first viral videos. It is, of course, the story of the [Florence Whale Explosion](#). Join us for a special program on the 50th anniversary of the event as OHS Executive Director Kerry Tymchuk interviews legendary Oregon television and radio broadcaster Paul Linnman about the event that blasted both blubber and Paul's career skyward. Virtual program via Zoom, free and open to the public. Thursday, November 12, 2020 from 7 – 8:30pm. FREE registration [here](#).

## Azalea Archive Restored

In 2005, the University of Virginia Library undertook a project to create a digital, online archive of the records from Dr. Henry T. Skinner's 1951 travels throughout the Southeast. During his travels, Skinner surveyed and kept detailed location and descriptive records on native azaleas. The archive was created with the help of ARS members from the Middle Atlantic Chapter. The archive disappeared from the UVA Library's website due to major system-wide updates in 2013. Now the archive has been restored and can be found [here](#).



*The footbridge in the Hinsdale Garden in 2018  
Photo: Patricia Swift*

## Rhododendrons Down East in Nova Scotia: ARS 2021 Spring Conference June 3, 2021 - June 6, 2021



Planning is in progress for a “virtual hybrid” convention, offering video garden tours, online guest speakers, and as many live, in-person elements as possible. Come join us “down east” as Nova Scotians say. Experience our unique blending of history, contemporary culture and natural beauty. Come to see our splendid rhodos and lush gardens, and we’ll throw in dramatic seacoasts, a vibrant capital city, and the world’s highest tides as extras. The American poet, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, called this the Land of Evangeline; to our Indigenous people it is Mi’kma’ki. By whatever name, Nova Scotia is a special place to visit. Details will be updated at the convention website.

---

*Check the [convention website](#) for more info.*

---

## Fall Color from Rhodies in Member Gardens



Autumn color is *R. 'PJM Elite'*.  
Green leaf is *R. 'Gomer Waterer'*.

*In the Deibert garden*



*R. 'Pink Snowflakes' in the Swift garden*



*R. campylogynum Jade (left) and  
R. 'Yellow Hammer' in the Prchal garden*



*In the Hinsdale Garden in April, 2018*

*Photo: Patricia Swift*

### Shop online at the ARS Store

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

[ARSStore.org](https://www.amazon.com/AmazonSmile?ref=ainst_aars)

## Chapter Contacts

**President :** Larry Jensen - 2021

541-852-7031

[sfuchsia@gmail.com](mailto:sfuchsia@gmail.com)

**Vice-President:** Bill Hennig - 2021

541-997-2489

[billhennig40@gmail.com](mailto:billhennig40@gmail.com)

**Secretary:** Kathy Bones - 2022

541-997-3082

[kathybones@charter.net](mailto:kathybones@charter.net)

**Treasurer:** Stefanie Almadova - 2022

541-991-9482

[cslujan3@yahoo.com](mailto:cslujan3@yahoo.com)

**Past President:** Mike Bones

541-997-3082

[rhodies@charter.net](mailto:rhodies@charter.net)

**Board Members:**

Sylvia Smith - 2021

541-268-6821

[sm\\_smith@live.com](mailto:sm_smith@live.com)

Day Farrald - 2022

541-590-3161

[day817@outlook.com](mailto:day817@outlook.com)

Debbie Peterson - 2023

541-997-1212

[beachbabybaubles@gmail.com](mailto:beachbabybaubles@gmail.com)

**Sunshine:** Sandi Hennig

541-997-2489

[flendish42@gmail.com](mailto:flendish42@gmail.com)

**Newsletter:** Patricia Swift

541-497-3508

[pcswift@outlook.com](mailto:pcswift@outlook.com)

**Publicity:** Day Farrald

541-590-3161

[day817@outlook.com](mailto:day817@outlook.com)

**Dinner coordinators:**

Sandi Hennig

541-997-2489

[flendish42@gmail.com](mailto:flendish42@gmail.com)

Lee Goodenough

559-288-5658

[secretlgood@gmail.com](mailto:secretlgood@gmail.com)

**Membership:** Jo Ann Wilson

541-902-9780

[nanabanana339@gmail.com](mailto:nanabanana339@gmail.com)

**Webmaster:** Jay Guettler

541-991-9478

[webmaster@siuslawars.org](mailto:webmaster@siuslawars.org)