

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



October 2020

# Macrophyllum

*Photo: Sandi Jensen*

## Upcoming Chapter Events: Nothing

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

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*Everyone please stay well.*

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### On the internet

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

## October 2020 President's Message

By Larry Jensen



Well, Lane County's covid numbers are terrible. We were hoping for better numbers this fall, but they are worse instead. Because of this, we will not be able to meet in person for some time.

Today I spent some time in the garden, something I've not been able to do recently. Between working in the shop which causes my knees to hurt, and a fall on my head, my garden has been sorely neglected this summer. However, most of my plants have survived, and it is fun to see how many



bloom buds I have on new plants! Several of the *R. occidentale* seedlings that are now 3 years old, have budded up nicely.

As you are walking through your yard, consider doing a few cuttings. Next year maybe we can get Terry Henderson to do another class on cuttings. Sometimes there is a limb that needs removing or shortening so you have nothing to lose to stick a few cuttings in. It's important to remember that the best time to prune is right after the plant blooms, but sometimes you don't see that one limb until later or maybe you want to do some cuttings, so you wait until late summer or early fall when the time is right for cuttings.

I remember that back in 1995 I was doing some logging near the house to create a building site for the shop. As I was getting ready to fall a tree at the south end of the house, I kept getting buzzed by a hummingbird. I watched for quite awhile before I could locate the nest, but the presence of the baby hummers put the removal of that tree on hold until the babies had fledged. It was fun to watch the little family and amazing how quickly they were able to fly.

On the east side of the house I was about to remove another tree, and noticed a bright orange flowering vine. Up until that time I hadn't been aware that we had a native honeysuckle here. We looked it up and found that it is *Lonicera ciliosa*. It is found from British Columbia to Northern California. It is not as floriferous as the yellow that we are more accustomed to, but it has a very bright orange bloom. Since that time, we have found several others.



It is a heck of a time to say 'dues are due', but good times MUST be coming! Keep in touch and hopefully this will lighten up soon!

## 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. You must renew your membership by December 1 to continue receiving the ARS Journal, so don't delay. Current members will be receiving snail mail about this shortly.

Category	Annual Dues	Benefits
Regular (1 or 2 members in same household)	\$40	Quarterly ARS Journal 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.



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*You can find details about ARS membership [here](#).*

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*R. macrophyllum in the Prchal garden*

## Deadheading Your Rhodies

By Mike Bones

Deadheading is the term used to describe the removal of the spent flowers after a Rhododendron blooms. One big reason for deadheading is cosmetic; Rhodies just look better after deadheading. The picture shows a plant being deadheaded from left to right. What a difference!



There are other important reasons for deadheading. If the plant is allowed to develop seeds, it takes strength from the plant that makes the new growth and flower buds for the next year, so it may not perform as well. Sterile plants do not set seed, so this aspect is less important for sterile Rhodies.

## 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](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. The October 15 meeting will feature Glen Jamieson on the Danish, Swedish, and German Pre-Tours at the 2018 ARS Convention.
Willamette Chapter	Meets via Zoom on the second Wednesday of the month, September thru April, at 7:00pm. Their September and October meetings are a two-part presentation on the Connie Hansen Garden in Lincoln City.
Mt. Arrowsmith Rhododendron Society	Will meet on October 14 at 7:30pm, both in person and via Zoom. Glen Jamieson will talk about botanizing in Yunnan.
Eureka Chapter	Will meet on October 22 via Zoom at 6:30 for socializing, 7:00pm for the program by Bruce Palmer, who will talk about plant collection from the ancient Egyptians through Joseph Rock in 1900.

# RESCHEDULED!

**American Rhododendron Society**

*75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary*

20/20

VISION



ARS75.org

Looking forward, reflecting back

Portland-Vancouver, April 29-May 3, 2020



April 27- May 1

2022

Our intention is to duplicate all elements of the 2020 convention, including the Pre-Tour (new dates: April 25-26) and Post-Tour (new dates: May 1-3), while including even more enhancements to the original features. Registration will open again on December 1, 2021. For convention updates, sign up at [ARS75.org](http://ARS75.org).

The 2020 ARS Convention Committee

## In Memoriam: Janice O. Gerdemann (1925 - 2020)

Our Siuslaw Chapter member Janice (Olbrich) Gerdemann passed away on September 4<sup>th</sup> at Quail Run in Albany, Oregon.



Janice was born in 1925 in East St. Louis, Illinois, the oldest child of Fred and Nell Olbrich with two younger brothers, Robert, and Jim. After graduating from East St. Louis High School in the middle of WWII, she earned a degree in Economics, summa cum laude, from the University of Illinois. Her first job was in marketing with Procter & Gamble in Ohio, which included the opportunity to make a trip to California. This was the beginning of a lifelong interest in travel.

Janice left Procter & Gamble to return to the University of Illinois to pursue a master's degree in business economics and while there she met and married James

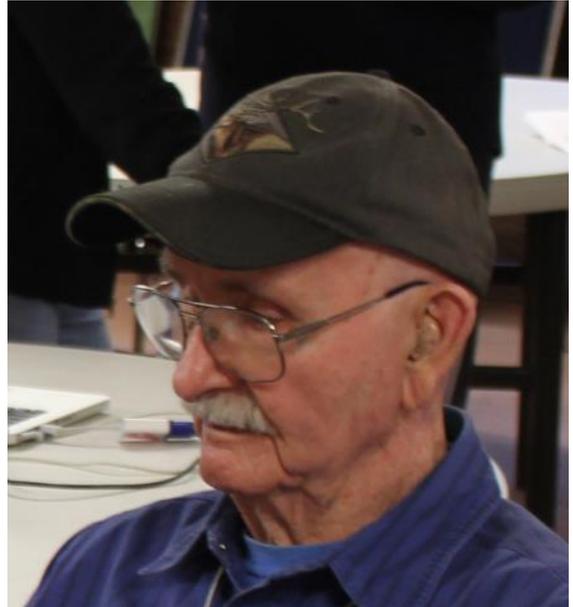
Gerdemann. Together they had three sons: Stephen, Dale, and Glenn. Janice and sons accompanied husband Jim, a professor at the University, on two sabbaticals. First, the whole family toured Europe before living in Scotland, and then traveled home on the maiden voyage of the passenger ship, The France. The second sabbatical was in Corvallis, Oregon. Janice and her husband loved travel; when they had a young family, there were family cross country camping trips often from Illinois to Oregon and later they explored more exotic places like South Africa, New Zealand, the Faroe Islands and Greenland. They lived in Urbana, Illinois until husband Jim's retirement in 1980 when they moved to Yachats, Oregon. Janice hated to leave her friends in Urbana, but soon found new friends and became an active member of the Yachats community. She assisted her husband Jim in creating and caring for their large garden, later to become the [Gerdemann Botanic Preserve](#). Janice was an environmentalist and actively worked to save the 804 Trail along the Yachats coastline. Janice was active in the League of Women Voters, the Unitarian Universalist Church, and hosting friends, family, and plant enthusiasts who traveled to Yachats.

A few years after husband Jim's death in 2008, Janice moved to Quail Run in Albany, Oregon, but she still visited Yachats to see the Garden, visit old friends and attend League of Women Voters meetings. Janice left a legacy of preserving the 804 Trail for everyone and was a partner in developing the Gerdemann Botanic Preserve which is open to the public.

At the family's request, donations in Janice's honor may be made to [View the Future/Gerdemann Fund](#).

## In Memoriam: Don Shields

Kathy Bones reports that our Siuslaw Chapter former member Don Shields passed away on October 6. Don & Jeannie Shields were long-time members of our chapter a while back until they had to move to Eugene for assisted living. Don was a retired Doctor and was over 90 years old. Jeannie is doing okay but can't plan anything for Don's passing due to the restrictions of the virus.



*R. macrophyllum*  
in Gene Cockeram's garden  
Picture taken by Paul Wilson  
in May 2002

## Harold's Rhododendron Pick for October Rhododendron 'Anniversary Diamond' by Harold Greer



This rhododendron, while it has been grown in limited amounts for some years, was never named until it was chosen to be one of the featured plants for the 75<sup>th</sup> convention of the ARS which was to take place in the spring of 2020, but alas, Covid-19 had other plans.

This is a cross of 'Spinulosum' x R. keiskei 'Yaku Fairy' made by the late Louis Mensing who lived in Eugene for many years before retiring on California Street north of Yachats, Oregon.

This plant is close to 'Ginny Gee' which is a well known and widely grow dwarf rhododendron. It is a bit more pink than 'Ginny Gee'.

Now when can you get a plant of this new rhododendron? We would like it to be introduced at the convention of 2022 which is the rescheduled 75<sup>th</sup> convention. We have lots of plants growing for introduction then.



Height in 10 years: 2'	Hardiness: 0° F.	Color: pink to white
Rating: 4/4/4 (that is for flower / plant & foliage / performance)		Ease of propagation: easy

## Choosing and Planting Rhododendrons

By Mike Bones

October is the best month to plant Rhododendrons. The ground is still warm from the summer months and the rain is just enough to help water things in. The roots of Rhododendrons seem to thrive during this time of the year. I have my new inventory in, there are over 1000 new plants. A great selection to choose from. Chapter members get a 10% discount.

### Planting

When planting, no matter what time of year it is, be sure to water the plant in. If the plant has been in a pot and looks root bound, cut those roots. I use an exacto knife and make four cuts from top to bottom on the sides, then soak it well before planting. When planting raise the top of the root ball at least a half inch above your soil and never plant in plain sand. Add  $\frac{3}{4}$  medium bark to the sand. I would not recommend peat moss as it is harder to get wet.

### Selecting a Rhododendron

Think about the space were you are going to plant the Rhody. Do I need a tall growing one there, do I need to block out something unsightly? When the size of a plant is given, that means in 10 years in proper growing conditions; it will get bigger. If a plant says that it gets 6 inches of new growth in one year, remember that makes one foot for width because it's six inches both directions. There are some Rhododendrons that can get 20 feet tall, while others can stay below one foot. Choose wisely.

### When do you want your plants to bloom

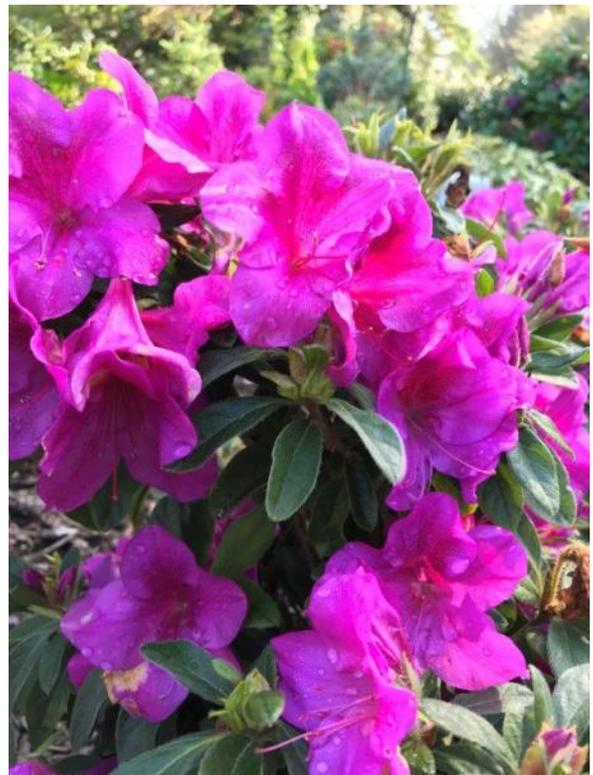
Do the winters kind of get you down? Try one of the January bloomers, they are a total "pick me up" for the winter blues. The early blooming ones and the late blooming ones always cheer me up.

### Color

We have a great selection of colors to choose from now. It sure is different than 60 years ago when I first started into Rhododendrons.

### Other Characteristics

Fragrance is another way to choose a plant, either in the flowers or the leaves. Don't forget about leaf texture, shape, and size.

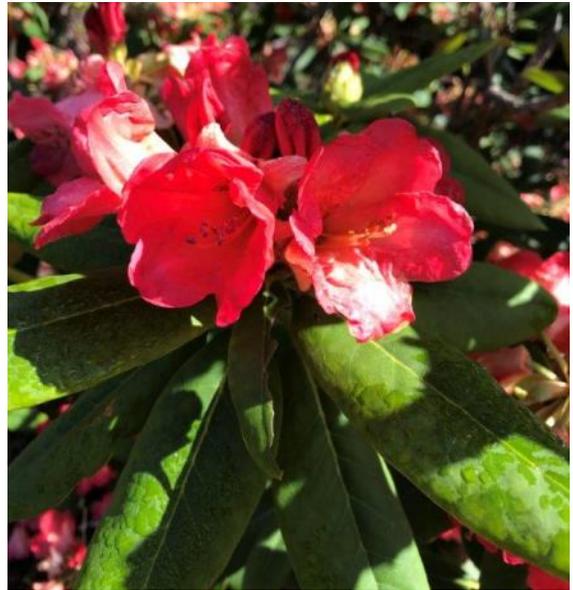


*This purple azalea is blooming now.*



*Azalea Kerrigans Super Red is an evergreen azalea that grows to 3x3 feet. It normally blooms in April and again in the fall.*

## Rhodies Blooming Now in Florence



*Brigadoon x Orange Marmalade*

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*Plant these now for fall color*

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*Coral Amazement*



*An azalea like this was planted in Gallagher Park years ago by the Florence Garden Club. Mike and Dan Bones have been propagating it; they call it Gallagher or San Diego. It blooms twice each year.*



*Picture of R. faithiae or faithae from September newsletter*

We may have misspelled the name of this Rhody last month. Did you know there's a controversy about the spelling of the species name? The Rhododendron News, the newsletter of the Portland Chapter of the ARS, has a very interesting [article](#) on this. The name is either R. faithiae (according to the Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden and others) or R. faithae (according to the Royal Botanical Garden Edinburgh, among others). What do our members know about this? I'd be very interested to [hear from](#) our many experts about the right name for this lovely, fragrant Rhody.

### 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.arsstore.org)

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