

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

September 2020



*Photo: Sandi Jensen*

# Macrophyllum

## 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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### Inside this issue

President's Message.....	2
Siuslaw Chapter Officers.....	3
ARS Convention rescheduled...	3
Message from Director .....	4
Siuslaw ARS Mission .....	4
Other Western Chapters .....	5
RSBG Invitation.....	5
Pix from June Picnic.....	6
Wind & Water Damage .....	7
Harold's Pick.....	8
Mike's Rhody Foliage.....	9
R. yakushmanum .....	10
R. faithiae .....	11
Chapter Contacts.....	11

### On the internet

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

## September 2020 President's Message

By Larry Jensen



We have been trying to figure out when we might have a meeting again, but it's not looking good. With Lane County reporting around 100 cases in the last 3 days, I'm afraid it's going backward. The K-3 that was set to go got cancelled, but at least most people I've seen seem to be getting used to wearing a mask.

My garden was looking pretty dry until the rain. We water most days, but with the humidity down below 20%, things dry quickly.

The night of the windstorm, I went to bed, only to be awakened by thumping on the roof. I thought the cat was up there, and then I opened the door and heard the roar of the wind in the trees. That is something to wake you up! Then the following morning, we hear of the horror up the McKenzie! I feel bad for all the people affected by the fires! What a scary night! I hope all of you came through the windstorm without damage! I probably collected at least a pick-up load of debris from our roofs, decks, and driveway. We don't need another summer storm like that one!

Now is nearly the time to try taking cuttings. It's always fun getting cuttings from others and see if you can get them to grow. It is also a great time to plant a new rhody! There is still some fairly warm weather to get the roots established in the ground. Of course on the coast cold is not usually a problem. However, when I was working building Driftwood Shores there was a week or more that there was snow on the beach!

I didn't make any crosses this year but I see some nice seed pods on *R. ririei* and since nothing else is blooming here, when it blooms in February, the seed should be true.

I've been building a new kitchen at our grandson's house in Albany, and I must say that the work isn't as hard on me as the 3 hours of driving time.



I hope that this covid will get under control soon so we can get back to getting together. Stay Well.

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Here are a few interesting garden webs  
<https://www.gardenconservancy.org/>

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Bloedel Reserve Strolls at Home  
<https://bloedelreserve.org/strolls-at-home/>

## Siuslaw Chapter ARS Election of Officers

We elected a Secretary, a Treasurer, and one member of the Board of Directors in June. Here are our officers and Board for 2020 and beyond:

President	Larry Jensen	Until 2021
Vice President	Bill Hennig	2021
Secretary	Kathy Bones	2022
Treasurer	Stefanie Almadova	2022
Board Member	Sylvia Smith	2021
Board Member	Day Farrald	2022
Board Member	Debbie Peterson	2023

Kathy Bones was our Secretary last year, and she generously volunteered to do it again. Thanks, Kathy! Pam Guettler retired as Treasurer, and Fred Guettler retired from the Board of Directors. Thank you both so much for all you've done for our chapter!

# RESCHEDULED!



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

## A Message from the ARS District 4 Director By Mike Bones

We missed our flower shows and this would have been a fantastic year, probably one of our larger shows as everyone's rhododendrons seemed to have put on a great display. I hope that you did get lots of pictures so that we can share them on line. We are all awaiting for this to get over so that we can continue having our dinners and meetings. Some of the chapters are trying 'Zoom' for their meetings which has been working. If you get a chance zoom in, on one of those meetings. The Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden will be having one next month for a ten dollar fee, Steve Hootman will be sharing the last trip that he took into China, exploring for Rhododendrons. (See the invitation on page 5.)

Watering was the concern for most of us during this dry summer. Driving around town, I have seen many large, dead plants because of the lack of water. I am so glad to see that the rain came when it did. Yes, we could use more and I am sure that it will come...it's Oregon. Then there was that east wind that some of us had, I actually had mature plants blow out of the ground, others snapped off at ground level and a couple broke in half. These were plants that were over 6 feet tall. I should look at it as: A new place for another new plant! (See page 7 for more.)

It's that time of year that we will be needing to pay for our dues again for the upcoming year. They are still \$40 for the family membership. A membership is a great present for someone, they really don't have to live locally to be a member. You should be getting a renewal letter in the mail within the month. We do appreciate your promptness. The Siuslaw Chapter is up to 97 members, so close to that 100 mark. Let's try to make that happen. Dues must be in prior to December 1st to be able to get the Rhododendron Journal in January.

Speaking about the Rhododendron Journal, we can always use your old ones to give away at our shows. The editors have been doing a fantastic job with the information in the Journal. You can go on line to read the back issues. [Start here](#).

Whenever we can meet again, our first meeting will be our Rhodies 101, which I always find interesting; I get new information each time we give it, besides the fellowship from our chapter members (which I miss). At the second meeting, we will have an Auction so that we can get new plants and make money for the Chapter. In the meantime, please live safe.

### 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. Chip Muller talked to the September meeting about plant hunting in Sikkim. October's 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	Held their annual general meeting at the Parksville Community Park Picnic Shelter on September 23.

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*Some of the chapters have posted pictures  
of their spring flowers.  
Check out the links at the left.*

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## An Invitation from the Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden

### Explore the mountains of China from your couch.

The 2019 Expedition to China – A Zoom Talk by Steve Hootman

**When:** Thursday, October 8 from 5-6:30pm.

**Where:** Participate from the comfort of your home!

**Cost:** \$10 for Current Members, \$20 for non-Members

Join Steve Hootman for a Zoom lecture featuring his latest expedition to China. Steve will take you to the mountains of south Yunnan and adjacent Guangxi with images and details about the plants seen during his fall 2019 expedition. This trip is another in a series designed to explore the regions away from the main center of distribution of the genus *Rhododendron* in an effort to fill in the gaps in our knowledge and to introduce new taxa into cultivation.

Highlights include the first botanical exploration of a rhododendron-covered mountain on the Vietnam border, as well as several days in some of the finest remaining old-growth forests in China. Steve will also discuss and illustrate new findings and theories about subsection *Fortunea*, including several new, enigmatic, and even unknown species and their relationship to each other.

As always, this will be an entertaining and educational lecture and discussion with beautiful images from some of the most remote and least explored regions of China. The talk will be followed by a moderated Q&A.

[Click here for more information and to buy tickets](#)

Pictures from the Siuslaw Chapter June 2020 Picnic



Photos: Myles Swift

## Perils Facing Your Rhodies Wind Damage



*If you have wind damage, you should cut off the damaged part to make the remaining plant smooth and not jagged.*



## Don't Forget to Water!

The lack of water for this time of year causes many plants to die. People who live on the Oregon Coast, especially those that live in a sandy area (Florence and surrounding area), really have to water lots. The cost of the water is worth it. The leaves curl up to help stop the water from escaping from the leaf. It is Mother Nature's way of letting us know that the plant is in distress. Just going out with a little hand held sprinkler will not take care of the job. Place the end of the hose on the root ball and let it trickle for a few hours. Don't have it turned on so much as to wash the mulch or dirt, let it totally wet the root ball and the surrounding area. When you turn on the water, make sure that the hot water in the hose is not put on the roots or leaves as it will burn the plant. I have been putting that hot water into a bucket (so not to waste it) and when it cools, I use it on plants.



*The picture on the left shows a plant in distress; the one on the right shows what it should look like.*



*Photos: Mike Bones*

## Harold's Rhododendron Pick for September

### Rhododendron 'Elizabeth Red Foliage' by Harold Greer

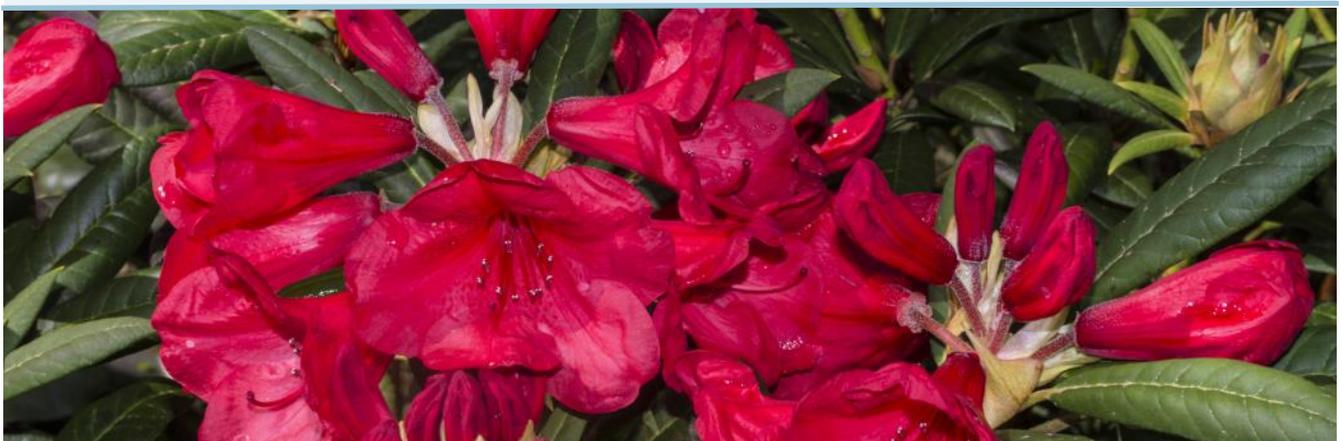


This rhododendron has been around since the 1950's but is not widely grown. It was hybridized by Endre Ostbo in the Seattle area and the parentage is uncertain, though it is thought to be a hybrid of 'Elizabeth' Group. It was registered in 1998 by the Willamette Chapter Study Group.

Things to like about this hybrid are the red new foliage that stays red through most of the summer, the showy red spring flowers and the fact that it flowers quite well in the fall. Some people do not consider that to be an attribute, but this plant does flower quite well in the fall and still keeps enough buds for spring flowering. It is flowering on September 16<sup>th</sup> as I write this. If you can find one these plants, it is worth a spot in your garden.



Height in 10 years: 5'	Hardiness: 0° F.	Color: bright red
Rating: 3/4/4 (that is for flower / plant & foliage / performance)		
Ease of propagation: easy	Flower: lax truss, but very bright red	Vigor: good
Foliage: good, especially the new red growth and summer bronze foliage		



## Mike Bones' Rhody Foliage



*Elephant Ears*



*Super Flimmer*

*Patriot's Dream*



*Chimius / Chemainus*



## A Tale of Two (or Three) Yaks

### *R. yakushmanum*

*Mike Bones writes:  
This is my yak that is 60  
years old. I am holding a  
plant of it that is 5 years  
old, the same size as the  
original plant when I  
purchased it from Halfdan  
Lem back in 1965.*



*Left: Closeup of another of Mike's yaks so  
you can see the foliage better.*



*Mike Bones with R. faithiae, the last Rhody to bloom in his garden this year.*

**Rhododendron faithiae** is sure to be a widely-grown and popular new species in gardens. This very rare species (known from only two or three locations in the wild) is a member of subsection Fortunea. It is probably most closely related to hemsleyanum and the recently introduced serotinum and shares some of the same characteristics – large, fragrant white flowers in mid-summer, a large habit and impressively big and bold foliage. As seen in the wild, this was a spectacular plant with large elliptic leaves to ten inches or more in length. One of the most exciting finds that Peter Cox and Steve Hootman have ever had together. Probably best with a bit of shade in the afternoon to preserve the summertime flowers.

### 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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