

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

February 2021



*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.

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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)

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## February 2021 President's Message

By Larry Jensen

A month into the new year and hopefully things are improving. I sure miss going out to eat.

This morning was drizzly but Daisy and I went for a walk. With the relatively warm weather, the mushrooms are fruiting everywhere. I even found some chanterelles! Walking through the garden, I found several plants that have buds swelling. Ririei at our house will probably bloom in 2 to 3 weeks. On January 9th the large plant of ririei at Hendricks Park was in full bloom.

Our show chairman, Day Ferrald, is trying to put together an online flower show. It sounds like an interesting idea.

Mid February at our house is generally my first fertilizer application for the year. I think I'd better check to make sure I have enough. Well, I checked, and I have enough for the first application, but I'll need to pick up more for the 2nd application at the end of May.

I probably said something before, but the occidentale seedlings that we raised from seeds that we got on the southern Oregon coast seem to have set a lot of buds, plus my hybrid deciduous azaleas are also budded up nicely.

Now is a good time to think about planting some new rhodies. Early season and late season are both good times to plant.

I have a great compact late blooming plant called Arthur Osborn. It blooms a nice bright red in late June and into July. Also a compact and deep blood red is Carmen. However, it blooms fairly early.

Then there is Seta! It is a very early pink and white, and blooms for us in February most years.

We are always hopeful that we will be able to meet sometime soon. The question that is on everyone's mind is when?

(We finally got grampa to hold Baby Addison, but he made her cry!)



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## December Online Auction

The Siuslaw Chapter held our first online auction in late December. We auctioned three plants: Camellia 'Yuletide', Rhododendron 'Superflimmer', and R. 'Fragrant Star'. The silent auction was held entirely via email, and the winners were announced the same way on January 1. The auction raised \$66 for our chapter. Thanks very much to the members who participated, to Mike Bones who provided the plants, to Day Farrald who wrote the colorful plant descriptions, and especially to the three plant winners for their generous donations.

## 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)

Eureka Chapter:  
<https://eurekarhody.org>

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 February 18, Justin Blackwell of the Lan Su Chinese Garden will compare Chinese and Japanese Gardens. Siuslaw Chapter members are invited to attend (see below).
Eugene Chapter	Meets via Zoom during the pandemic. On Wednesday, February 17, Dennis McKiver will talk about Rhododendron Species and Hybrids that Grow in a Perfect Climate. Siuslaw chapter members are invited to attend. Details <a href="#">here</a> .
Willamette Chapter	Meets via Zoom on the second Wednesday of the month, September thru April, at 7:00pm. On February 10, Wally Reed will talk about Mapping Your Garden. Siuslaw chapter members are invited to attend. Details <a href="#">here</a> .
Eureka Chapter	Will meet on February 25 via Zoom. Steve McCormick and John Stephens will talk about Rhododendrons in Finland. The Details <a href="#">here</a> . Please click in by 6:55pm to join the meeting.
Mt. Arrowsmith Rhododendron Society	Has been meeting via Zoom during the pandemic. On February 6, Ken Nentwig will talk about Water Efficiency in the Landscape.

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### A Zoom Invitation from the Portland Chapter Justin Blackwell of the Lan Su Chinese Garden on *Chinese and Japanese Gardens – A Comparison of Styles and Culture* Thursday, February 18 at 7:00pm

Siuslaw Chapter members are invited to join the Portland Chapter's Zoom meeting to hear from Justin Blackwell, Head Curator of the Lan Su Chinese Garden in Portland.

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*Here's the ZOOM link:*  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83724836893>

*Meeting ID: 837 2483 6893*

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A Zoom Invitation from the Willamette Chapter  
Wally Reed on *Mapping Your Garden*  
Wednesday, February 10 at 7:00pm

Siuslaw Chapter ARS members are invited to join the Zoom meeting hosted by the Willamette Chapter on Wednesday, February 10 at 7:00 pm. The WCARS Chapter speaker for February is their President-For-Life, Wally Reed. His talk will be about Mapping Your Garden.

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*Here's the ZOOM link:*  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84046408013>  
*Meeting ID: 840 4640 8013*

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**Mapping Your Garden: The Base Map You Have To Create**

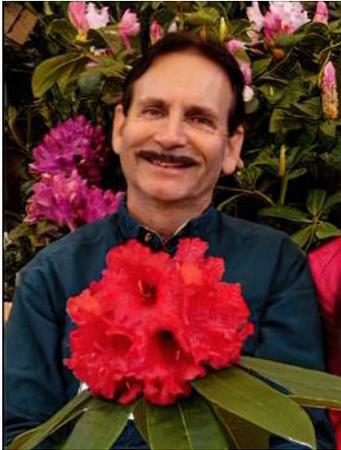
High quality free programs to manipulate base map information to produce beautiful maps are readily available. But none provide the base map locations of the information to be manipulated into those maps. This talk covers simple, primitive, inexpensive methods to develop the base map of your yard or garden. Most home owners have all the tools needed to put pencil to paper, or cursors to screens. The focus is on creating a base map for a yard, but is applicable to larger areas. So dust off your tape measures, your protractor, and your memory or photos of what you planted where and when. We'll help you get to the base mapping needed for your garden book, or for your map program.



**The Speaker: Wallace Reed, Salem, OR**

Wally Reed enjoyed a long research and teaching career with the Environmental Sciences Department of the University of Virginia in Charlottesville, Va. His research focused on land use, air quality, and geographic information systems. He joined the Willamette Chapter of the ARS after retiring in 2001. He was soon elected President of the chapter, and subsequently President for Life, 14 years and counting. For the past 10 years, he has been deeply involved in developing the Rhododendron Hillside Garden in Salem's Bush's Pasture Park located in front of his home in Salem. And of course, planting every rhody and companion plant that Kathy, the real plant person, wanted in their yard. His talk is about how to create the base map of where what was planted.

An Invitation from the Eugene Chapter: Dennis McKiver on  
*Rhododendron Species and Hybrids that Grow in a Perfect Climate*  
Zoom on Wednesday, February 17, 2021 at 7:00pm



The speaker for our February meeting will be Dennis McKiver of Fort Bragg, California. The Genus *Rhododendron* contains many different rhododendrons, from tropical to arctic alpine. No individual location can grow every variety, but if one were to select the best location in which to try, Fort Bragg, California, would be the place. It is never too hot or cold. It is dry in summer, but water is available when needed. Dennis will show us month-by-month (as something seems to be in bloom all year in Fort Bragg) what can be grown there. Many of these plants can be grown in the colder northwest. But you will also see rhododendrons that those of us in the northwest can't grow. Things like *R. nuttallii* grow well for Dennis. Don't miss this chance to see some outstanding rhododendrons ... some you can grow, and some you can only admire. Dennis will give you a chance to see really great rhododendrons. Don't miss it!

Dennis McKiver has been a member of the Noyo Chapter, Mendocino County, since 2001. Dennis has 200+ species and 1000+ hybrid rhododendrons growing on his property just north of Fort Bragg, California. He is an active member and volunteer at the Mendocino Coast Botanical Gardens. Each spring he leads weekly tours of the gardens with an emphasis on how to plant and raise rhododendrons and which ones will do the best in different climate zones. Dennis retired from a career as a Patrol Lieutenant for the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

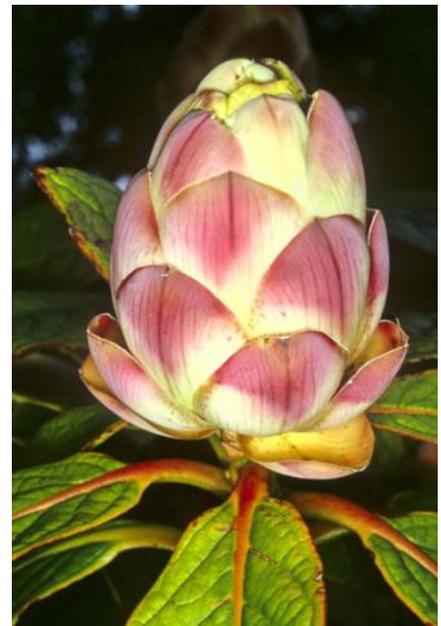
Here's the ZOOM link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81188163312?pwd=SVBsZDMxUzVXYStBckU2NmpRMXNkdz09>

Meeting ID: 811 8816 3312 Passcode: 741695



*R. nuttallii* bloom and bud



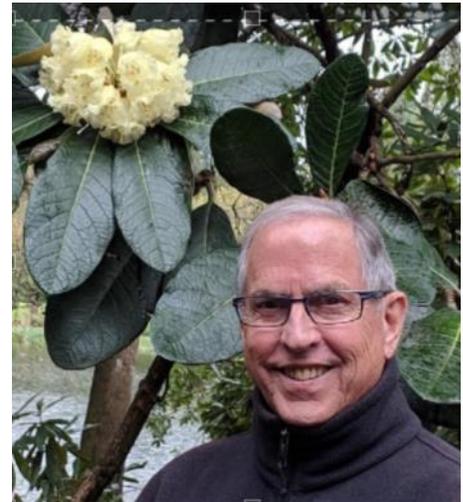
**A Zoom Invitation from the Eureka Chapter**  
**Steve McCormick and John Stephens on *Rhododendrons in Finland:***  
***Finnish Persistence & Creativity vs. Latitude***  
**Thursday, February 25 at 6:55pm**

Finns are known for their stoicism, forbearance, persistence, tenacity, gumption, perseverance, resourcefulness—or, as they call it, “sisu.” It’s a trait inherent to a nation living in high latitudes and extremes of temperature and light. That *sisu* has fostered generations of horticulturalists who, against all odds, have successfully grown, hybridized, and propagated the rhododendron. Steve and John will relate their discoveries in the country of Finland, based on their experiences on the post-tour following the 2018 ARS Spring International Convention in Bremen. They’ll share some history, views of rhododendron gardens and parks, and introduce you to some of the notable personalities that have championed the scientific work in rhododendrons there. As an introduction, they will share brief highlights of the convention week in Bremen.

*Here’s the ZOOM link:*  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/99120170578>  
*Meeting ID: 991 2017 0578*



*The speakers  
and  
*R. macabeanum**



John’s early professional career was devoted to university level research and instruction in geography and cartography, followed by management in two major publishing companies and his eventual position as Senior Director of Professional & Continuing Education at the University of Washington. Steve’s professional life encompassed promotional marketing in the Los Angeles music industry, followed by account management for major broadcast companies, eventually as Senior Account Executive at CBS Broadcasting in Seattle. John and Steve retired to Washington’s Long Beach Peninsula in 2013. They had begun developing a retirement property on Willapa Bay which had been part of a rhododendron nursery created by Dr. J Harold Clarke, the third ARS President and founding member of the Rhododendron Species Foundation. John is currently ARS Western Regional VP; Steve is currently President of the ARS Portland Chapter.

## Rhododendron Suzy Goldlust A Hybrid by Chris Trautmann of Mowbray Gardens

Rhododendron Suzy Goldlust is a cross made by our Siuslaw ARS member Chris Trautmann in Cincinnati in the late 1990s. Its parents are Yellowstone X Dream Come True.

Yellowstone is another of Chris's seedlings from Cincinnati, and it's one of the very few rhodos where the opening corollas are the same color as the flowers, which are greenish-yellow. The flower is a nice yellow with 3 inch corollas and they are wavy along with a hardiness of -20°F for the plant and -15°F for the flower. Dream Come True is from seed and a cross by Chris's late mentor, Dr. Thomas L. Ring of Bellaire, Ohio. Chris grew about 30 seedlings to flowering and the one he selected was just the best: a compact smaller plant with large peach flowers and hardiness around 10°F below for the flower.

Dream Come True's parents are: (R. fortunei x R. haematodes) x Orange Frazzled)) x Betty White.

Suzy has true sisters that also shine in beauty: Amy Goldlust has colors of pinwheel yellow and pink; and Sunhilla is a large golden yellow with the largest trusses. All three have edges that have portions of solid gold colors and they do not detract from the beauty of the plant. It looks like gilt...gold onto silver. All three will be for sale at the 2022 convention and maybe a few this coming spring. Best of all, there are probably 90 mixed seedlings at Mowbray Gardens, ready to show their first flowers this coming spring. Chris hopes we can all get together and enjoy these plants soon.



*Call ahead to visit Chris's garden: 541-999-5425*

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## Second Chance to See Dr. Glen Jamieson's Presentation

If you missed the Eureka Chapter's Zoom on Jan 28, or if you want to see it again, you can view the recording online. Dr. Glen Jamieson's presentation on his travels in Yunnan, China, is available until February 20 on YouTube. The talk begins with info about ericaceous roots. Start [here](#).

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## National Random Acts of Kindness Day is February 17

Each year on February 17th, National Random Acts of Kindness Day is celebrated by individuals, groups and organizations nationwide to encourage acts of kindness. Not only do the acts of kindness bring joy to the receiver, but they spread positive reactions to the giver!

Here are a few ideas to get you started:

- Share words of encouragement. You never know who might need them.
- Put your skills to work for someone in need. For example, offer to create a résumé for someone seeking a new job.
- Mail a "thinking of you" card to someone you've not talked to in a while.
- Drop off a load of groceries at the local food pantry.
- Send a thank you note to the local fire department, police department, or any military personnel.
- Just smile, and be sure to use your eyes.

You can read more about this at

<https://nationaldaycalendar.com/national-random-acts-of-kindness-day-february-17/>

*Excerpted from the National Day Calendar website.*

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



We have an exciting opportunity to learn about growing, breeding, and gardening with Rhododendrons in June at the 2021 ARS Convention. For those of us who can't travel to Nova Scotia, all the presentations, garden tours, and networking opportunities will be available online. Virtual garden tours will include the Kentville Research Centre, Annapolis Valley Historic Gardens, and Peggy's Cove barrens as well as private gardens.

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*Check the [convention website](#) for the latest info.  
Registration for the virtual convention is now open.*

## Harold's Rhododendron Pick for February: Rhododendron 'Seta' by Harold Greer

'Seta' is an early flowering rhododendron that, depending on the weather, can flower in February or early March, so it is great for ending the "winter blues" or, in my opinion, the lack of rhododendron flowers. 'Seta' was hybridized by Lord Aberconway of Bodnant, a famous garden in Conway, Wales. There were three Lord Aberconways, the first prior to 1900, the second 1879 – 1953, and the third 1913 – 2003. The third Lord Aberconways introduced the plant in 1933, the same year it received an Award of Merit from the Royal Horticultural Society. It also received a First Class Certificate from the RHS in 1960.



'Seta' is a hybrid of *R. spinuliferum* x *moupinense*. Like many of the early hybrids the entire group of seedlings from that cross were named Seta Group with one clone selected to be registered as 'Seta', which means there may be more than one clone of this plant grown under the name 'Seta' as you might note in my pictures.



The pink and white flowers have an interesting tubular shape originating from its parent *R. spinuliferum*, which has one of the most unusual tubular flower in the Genus *Rhododendron*. It is certainly a worthwhile plant to grow for its early flower and unique flower shape. It is a lepidote rhododendron, meaning that the leaves have natural scales. Generally, the plant can be compact, though I have seen some leggy plants without light pruning when young.

Hardiness: 5° to 10°F. May lose buds at 15°.

Height in 10 years: 5'

Color: Light candy pink with deeper pink on edges of the petals

Propagation: relatively easy

Foliage: good, sometimes gets red spots on leaves in winter

Vigor: good

Rating: 4/3/3 (flower / plant & foliage / performance, 5 is best 1 is least)

## Peter Adams on Vireyas at the White Cloud Nursery

On January 21, the Portland Chapter of the ARS hosted a Zoom presentation by Peter Adams about his White Cloud Nursery. Starting in 2004, Peter and his wife built the nursery from scratch on 5



*Vireya Rhododendron trusses brought in by members at an ARS meeting in Hawaii*

acres on the Big Island of Hawaii. They specialized in growing Vireya Rhododendrons. Peter shared details about building their house and the 3,000 sqft. greenhouse, and showed lots of beautiful pictures of the Vireyas he and Janie grew there.

Since Rhododendrons bloom all year in Hawaii, you can take cuttings any time. The chapter has a display at every meeting and members can take home a truss to start. The name is written on the back of the leaf so you can identify your new plant.

Dr. Gerdermann from Yachats had lots of Vireyas and he actually did hybridizing for hardiness. Mike Bones reports that we have one or two of these hybrids in Gallagher Park here in Florence.



*Vireya 'Janie' from open pollinated seed, named for Peter's late wife. This is one of the many Vireyas Peter showed us during his talk.*

## In Memoriam: Charles King (d.2021)



*Siuslaw Chapter member Charles King passed away in early January of 2021. Charles and his wife, Betty, have been active members for many years. Sandi Jensen kindly shares her memories of Charles.*

Charles King was one of the first members that I met when we joined the club, and one of the finest men that I knew. He was always helpful, and taught me how to make the colorful picture nametags. He was also encouraging to me when it came to my early attempts to put together the *Macrophyllum*. He had been the editor quite some time before me, and understood how challenging it could be. He had a wry sense of humor, that sometimes eluded me, until I would look directly at him and see the twinkle in his

eyes. I know he had been a scientist before retiring, and every once in a while he would try to explain some complicated process, and I always felt like one of the bobbleheaded dogs in the car window, and although I attempted to understand, I was usually unsuccessful. He would laugh gently at me, and try again. He enjoyed their rhododendrons that he grew, and the bears that would visit their yard, and sent us a DVD recording of their antics. He will be sorely missed by all who came to know him.

—Sandi Jensen



*Hellebore 'Pink Frost' in the Prchal garden*

## Blooming Now in Florence



*R. 'Seta' in the Prchal garden*

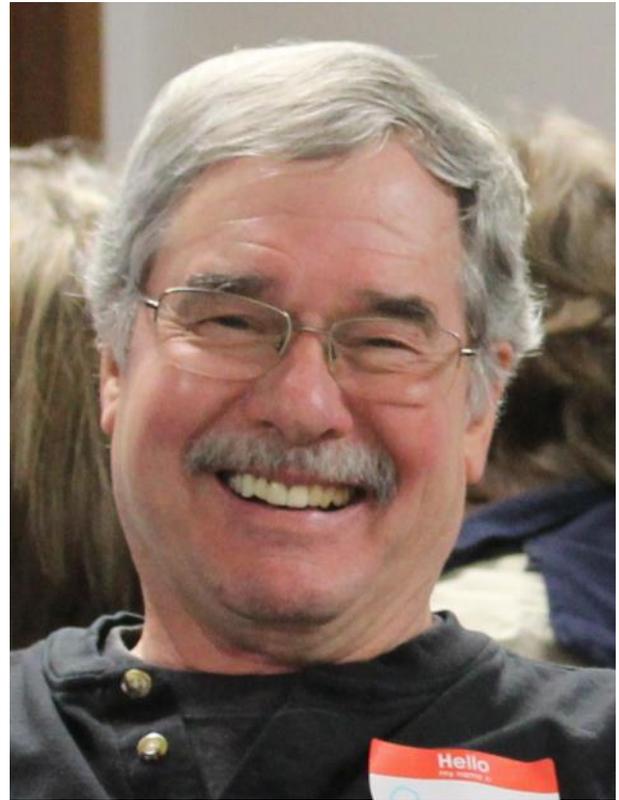
## In Memoriam: Gary Smith (d. 1/11/2021)

*Our Siuslaw Chapter member, Gary Smith, passed away on January 11, 2021. Gary and his wife, Karen, have been active members for many years. Sandi Jensen wrote this lovely remembrance.*

Gary Smith was a helpful, fun loving friend that will be sorely missed by all of us who were privileged to know him.

He was always among the first to volunteer to help, or to say let's DO it! No matter what IT was. When we wanted to do garden tours, he was among the first to sign up, and was always positive about all we saw. When I worried that some surgical procedure I was having might interfere with my getting the newsletter out, he came over to find out the process I went through so he could help, if necessary. Any time we had a set-up for one of our shows, he was always there. His sense of humor was infectious, and it seemed that his smile was permanently etched on his face.

Rest in peace Gary. You will be missed! —*Sandi Jensen*



## Blooming Now in Florence



*Saxifrage in the Swift garden*



*Rhody on Nandina Drive*

## Calendar of Events 2021

- February 10 Willamette Chapter Zoom  
Wally Reed on Mapping Your Garden at 7:00pm  
Invitation and link [here](#).
- February 17 Eugene Chapter Zoom at 7:00pm  
Dennis McKiver on Rhododendron Species and  
Hybrids. Invitation and link [here](#).
- February 18 Portland Chapter Zoom at 7:00pm  
Chinese and Japanese Gardens  
Invitation and link [here](#).
- February 25 Eureka Chapter Zoom  
Steve McCormick & John Stephens on  
Rhododendrons in Finland  
Invitation and link [here](#).
- June 3-6 Rhododendrons Down East  
ARS 2021 Spring Conference online  
More [here](#).



*R. nuttallii* foliage

### 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)

## Chapter Contacts

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