

Siuslaw Chapter
American Rhododendron Society
PO Box 1701
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R. macrophyllum in the Prchal garden

March 2021

Macrophyllum

Chapter Events: Virtual Flower Show

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

We are having a virtual flower show, where members can display pictures of their Rhodies blooming now.

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
Virtual Rhody Show	3
Other Western Chapters	4
Portland Zoom	4
Willamette Zoom	5
De Anza Zoom	6
Hinsdale Garden	6
Learn to Zoom	6
Eugene Zoom	7
Eureka Zoom	8
Maintain Your Rhodies	8
R. Leah's Demon	9
ARS Spring Convention	10
Harold's Pick	11
Jim Hobbs	12
Diane Hunter Mason	13
Calendar & Contacts	14

On the internet

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

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March 2021 President's Message By Larry Jensen

Finally, some relatively warm and dry weather! Back to pruning the fruit trees.



Unfortunately the trees are getting older and larger, but at least I only have 2 more to do.

Sandi and I went to Florence the other day. I walked through Gallagher Park, but there was not much blooming. Just the red rhodie next to the totem pole on the outer edge of the park. We thought it was a great greeting to Florence, and then we got a picture from Dave Braley of it. He entitled it "**Blooming Cornubia welcoming people to Florence in Gallagher Park.**" It would be great if some of those trees could be removed. The plants really need a little more sunshine.



Now is a great time to plant more rhodies. I have a couple to plant and more to move. Our granddaughter Danielle, who some of you may remember from the flower shows, now has a house in Eugene. Maybe we

can move some of her plants to her house.

It sounds like Hwy. 101 is open again so we were thinking about a trip to Thompsons in Waldport this month. Everyone has been stuck at home so much that a short road trip is in order. People were out in force at restaurants this weekend It was great to go out to eat indoors!

Remember the time to prune your rhodies is shortly after they bloom. I always try to spray when nothing is blooming. I don't want to kill off my bees. I have some problems with azalea lace bugs. Last year I had some medical problems, so the bugs were winning.

The virtual flower show got many nice entries. Congratulations to Chris Trautman on winning our first of the season. Be sure to check it out at:

https://1drv.ms/u/s!AgAxEg_Z8DoHgcVv0Df7GiJ0tzqFpg?e=yKA26d

I'll be fertilizing this week hopefully. When we get this nice weather in the late winter, there is so much to do, all at once!

Well, Happy Gardening, and I hope we can get together soon!

Siuslaw ARS Chapter Vacant Positions

The Siuslaw ARS is looking for a new Treasurer and a new Webmaster. Please contact Larry and Sandi Jensen (sfuchsia@gmail.com) or any board member if you're interested.

Virtual Rhododendron Show



The Siuslaw ARS Chapter started our first Virtual Flower Show on February 22. We invited chapter members to send in pictures of the Rhodies blooming in our gardens during the last week in February. We were delighted to receive pictures of 28 Rhody flowers and buds from our members.

Chris Trautmann had the winning entry with his lovely *R. magnificum* (shown above). It was judged the best both for its beauty and its rarity.

Of our 28 pictures, a dozen or so depicted species Rhodies and three showed buds. The rest were hybrids. It was an impressive selection, especially for late February.

*Some people these days are too judgmental.
I can tell by just looking at them.*

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

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 March 18, Richie Steffen will talk about The Miller Garden. Siuslaw Chapter members are invited to attend (see below).
Eugene Chapter	Meets via Zoom during the pandemic. On Wednesday, March 17, Tim Walsh will talk about plant diversity in the Humboldt Botanical Garden. Siuslaw chapter members are invited to attend. Details here .
Willamette Chapter	Meets via Zoom on the second Wednesday of the month, September thru April, at 7:00pm. On March 10, Richard Hebda will talk about the future of Rhododendrons. Siuslaw chapter members are invited to attend. Details here .
Eureka Chapter	Will meet on March 25 via Zoom. Marc Colombel will talk on Propagation by an Amateur for Amateurs. Details here . Please click in by 6:55pm to join the meeting.
Mt. Arrowsmith Rhododendron Society	Has been meeting via Zoom during the pandemic. On March 20, Brian Minter will discuss What's New in Edible Gardening.
De Anza Chapter	Will meet via Zoom on Wednesday, March 17 at 4pm. Sharon Bryson will talk about "Peonies—Bloom and Beyond." See invitation here .

A Zoom Invitation from the Portland Chapter Richie Steffen on *The Miller Garden, Legacy of a Plantswoman* Thursday, March 18 at 7:00pm

Siuslaw Chapter members are invited to join the Portland Chapter's Zoom meeting to hear from Richie Steffen, the Executive Director of the [Miller Garden](#) since 2000.

Here's the ZOOM link:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82580943492>

Meeting ID: 825 8094 3492

A Zoom Invitation from the Willamette Chapter
Richard Hebda, PhD on *The Future of Rhododendrons:*
The Ancient Past, Modern Distributions, and Climate Change
Wednesday, March 10 at 7:00pm

Siuslaw Chapter ARS members are invited to join the Zoom meeting hosted by the Willamette Chapter on Wednesday, March 10 at 7:00 pm. The WCARS Chapter speaker for March is Richard Hebda, PhD, and his topic is *The Future of Rhododendrons: The Ancient Past, Modern Distributions and Climate Change*.

Here's the ZOOM link:

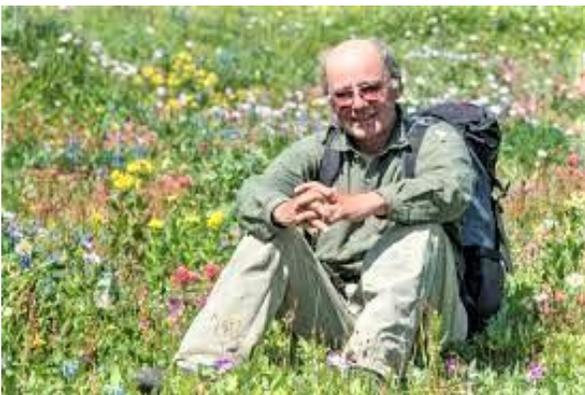
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81338525497>

Meeting ID: 813 3852 5497

Richard Hebda joined the Royal BC Museum in 1980 and retired after 37 years in 2017. Richard was Curator of Botany and Earth History from 1986 until retirement and remains active in museum research projects. Since 1984 he has held a faculty position and taught at the University of Victoria (Biology, Earth and Ocean Sciences, Environmental Studies). His PhD in botany is from the University of British Columbia.

Richard studies plant fossils and their distribution over time and place to shed light on the condition, history and evolution of BC's landscape and climate. He also studies ethnobotany of BC First Nations, restoration of natural systems and processes, ecology and origins of Garry Oak and alpine ecosystems and botany of grasses.

With his graduate students, he has written more than 130 scientific papers and 250 popular articles. He has co-authored or co-edited eight books and major reports, and served as the province's expert advisor on Burns Bog and science advisor on paleontology. He has been awarded the Queen's Jubilee medal for his work in paleontology and the national Bruce Naylor award for natural history curatorship.



Education:

PhD, Botany, University of British Columbia

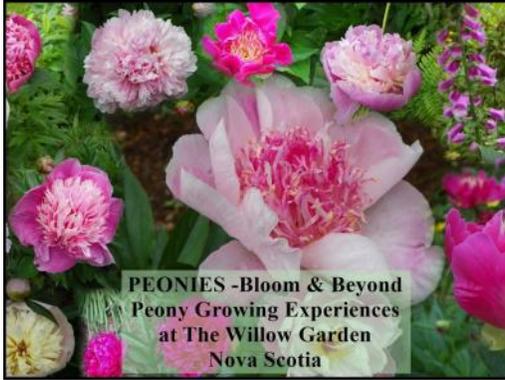
Areas of Interest:

Impacts of climate change on ecosystems
Restoration of natural systems and processes
Timing and extent of the last ice age

Specialty:

Vegetation and climate history of BC

An Invitation from the De Anza Chapter
Sharon Bryson on *Peonies—Bloom and Beyond*
Wednesday, March 17 at 4:00pm



ARS De Anza Chapter (San Francisco Peninsula and San Jose) has invited us to Sharon Bryson’s talk about “Peonies—Bloom and Beyond” on Wednesday, March 17, at 4 pm PST. Sharon will show us her gorgeous garden. The work that she and her late husband did in Willow Garden, located outside Antigonish, Nova Scotia, is illustrated in her [website](#). It’s well worth a look.

You can read about Sharon’s peonies in the Winter 2021 ARS Journal, starting on page 13.

Here’s the ZOOM link:

<https://zoom.us/j/93353606729?pwd=ZVFzY0l0SmxXV2o2SjBURGhxdFUrUT09>

The Hinsdale Garden

Sadly, the Hinsdale Garden in Reedsport will schedule no Open Days again in 2021. The Friends of the Garden say they considered several options but none work. There is good news: there may be a virtual tour in the works. Gordon Wylie also reminds us that we can take a self-tour of the garden anytime. The magnolias and camellias have already begun to bloom, and the many Rhodies and azaleas will be starting their spring show any day now.

The bridge to the east side of the garden had to be removed and will be replaced sometime in the future.

The Hinsdale Garden is located on Oregon Highway 38 just east of Reedsport. You can park off the highway or across the highway in the large lot for the Elk Viewing Area and simply walk into the garden. You can follow the Friends of the Hinsdale Garden on Facebook for the latest developments.

Learn to Zoom at GetSetUp

If you have yet to attend your first Zoom meeting, or you feel nervous about joining in, the web site [Get Set Up](#) may be just what you need. This site has training for seniors conducted by seniors. Many of their classes are free of charge. For example, there’s a class called Get Started With Zoom For Beginners. This is a way to practice your Zoom skills in a friendly learning environment. They have training in many tech topics and other life skills, too. Check them out.

An Invitation from the Eugene Chapter:
Tim Walsh on *Plants in the Humboldt Botanical Gardens*
Zoom on Wednesday, March 17, 2021 at 7:00pm



Tim's fascination and passion with rhododendrons began in the late 1980's. Soon after, he joined the ARS and Eureka Chapter. He was awarded the ARS Silver Medal in 2008. Tim was one of the founding directors of the Humboldt Botanical Gardens (HBG). He has recruited other Chapter members as they continue to develop, select and care for plants at the HBG 'Temperate Woodland Garden'. Tim is a UC Extension Master Gardener. He is a past president of the Eureka Chapter and currently the District 5 Director of the American Rhododendron Society.

Tim will speak to us about the diversity of plant material including lots of rhododendrons that grow in this fine botanical garden. Of note is the very rare *Wollemia pines* (*Wollemia nobilis*) which was recently discovered in Australia. This is one of the best specimens in the U.S. There is an extensive collection of rhododendrons which Tim highly prizes and will describe for you. You are sure to see a "must have" plant for your garden in his presentation.

Here's the ZOOM link:

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

Meeting ID: 811 8816 3312 Passcode: 741695



Arbutus Marina at the HBG



above: *R. spinuliferum*

below: *R. arboreum*



Wollemia nobilis at the HBG

A Zoom Invitation from the Eureka Chapter
Marc Colombel on Propagation by an Amateur for Amateurs
Thursday, March 25 at 6:55pm

Mr. Colombel is the founder and president of the *Society Bretonne du Rhododendron*, and a friend of the Eureka Chapter.

Please join the Zoom meeting by 6:55 so everyone will be ready to go at 7:00pm.

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

How To Maintain Your Rhodies

The Eureka ARS Chapter has a month-by-month guide to what you should do in your Rhododendron garden. March and April are for enjoying our beautiful plants and flowers, and we can certainly do that! Here's the link:

<https://eurekarhody.org/files/Rhododendron%20Maintenance%20through%20the%20Year.pdf>

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.

Rhododendrons Leah's Demon and Sir George Martin Hybrids by Chris Trautmann of Mowbray Gardens

These two Rhododendrons are hybrids made by our Siuslaw ARS member Chris Trautmann. Both Rhodies have R. Killer Diller as seed parent.



R. Leah's Demon

R. Leah's Demon is a cross of Killer Diller x Avery, and blooms on the early side. Its truss is quite large at 8 inches wide and five inches tall. There may be a few small plants ready in the fall.

Chris has a couple of further crosses coming along with a couple to bloom this spring:

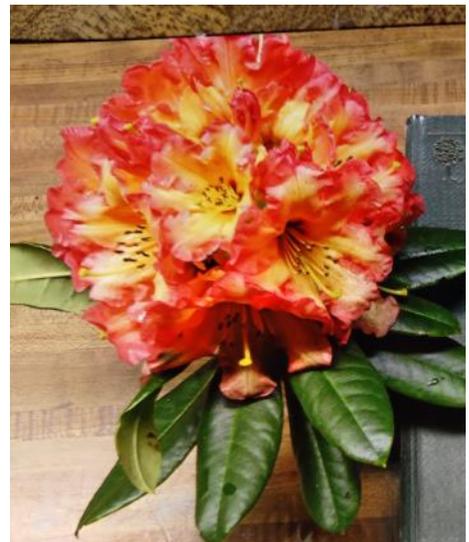
- Leah's Demon x Cayenne (Dido x Lem's Cameo)
- Leah's Demon x Amber Prinz, which has a bright yellow flower and a compact habit...one of Chris' best!

R. Sir George Martin, named for the producer of The Beatles, is another elepidote with Killer Diller as the mother-seed parent. Pollen of the plant 'Unique Marmalade' was used to extract the wonderful genes that it produces. UM has a compact plant habit, along with a tight orangey truss and plant hardiness from its parent, 'Unique'. The cross is actually 'Orange Marmalade' x 'Unique' by Joe Davis of Sumner, WA.

The beauty of this flower is truly remarkable, along with a tight compact habit that loves full sun and glossy foliage that is held for two years.

Seedlings of the following crosses are coming along:

- Sir George Martin x Amber Prinz
- SGM x macabeanum, Bones #1, an earlier cross, has a large-leaved plant with one bud on it to work with this coming spring. Chris may put Bones' sinogrande onto it.



R. Sir George Martin
Chris likes its color with the blue cones of Korean fir.

This spring Chris has around 90 budded seedlings showing their color for the first time of mixed crosses along with the hundreds of specimen plants he's collected over the last ten years. Chris invites all of you to call ahead and visit the garden to give him your opinion on what looks good.

Call ahead to visit Chris's Mowbray Gardens: 541-999-5425

Rhododendrons Down East: Exploring the North Atlantic Region
ARS 2021 Spring Convention
June 3, 2021 - June 6, 2021



Take advantage of this exciting opportunity to learn about growing, breeding, and gardening with rhododendrons. Due to the travel restrictions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2021 American Rhododendron Society Convention will be offering all the presentations, garden tours, and networking opportunities available on line, to anyone who can access the internet!

The convention begins with “Introduction to Mi’kma’ki”, from Gerald Gloade, well known to Nova Scotians as a Mi’kmaw presenter, educator and naturalist. Gerald’s unique first people’s perspective into the early history and natural history of our region provides an entertaining and informative context for the convention tours and presentations that follow.

It costs \$70.59US to register for the virtual convention. What a bargain!

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

Harold's Rhododendron Picks for March: R. 'Cilpinense' and R. 'Snow Lady' by Harold Greer



*Left and right:
R. 'Cilpinense'*



'Cilpinense' is an old hybrid from Lord Aberconway of Bodnant a famous garden in Conway, Wales, as was 'Seta' that I wrote about last month. Like many of the old hybrids, this one goes back to 1923, and while one clone was registered, so was the whole group of seedlings from the cross of *R. ciliatum* x *moupinense* are called 'Cilpinense'. Therefore, there are plants that are nearly white and some quite pink.

'Snow Lady' is a hybrid from Lionel de Rothschild of Exbury Gardens in Hampshire, England. He apparently sold a seedling of *R. leucaspis* to a W. G. Tucker which when flowered appeared to be a hybrid, most probably *R. leucaspis* x *ciliatum*. The date is unknown but most probably before 1940. It was included in The International Rhododendron Register in 1958.

*Below:
R. 'Snow Lady'*

Both plants have similar small rounded hairy foliage. They are both lepidote (scaley) rhododendrons and have attractive foliage year around. 'Snow Lady' especially will flower well in deep shade. Both flower early, generally in March in the Willamette Valley.



Height in 10 years: 3'	Hardiness: 5° to 10°F
Color: White to pink for 'Cilpinense'; white for 'Snow Lady'	Propagation: easy
Foliage: good to excellent	Vigor: good
Rating: 4/4/4 (flower / plant & foliage / performance, 5 is best 1 is least)	

In Memoriam: Jim Hobbs (d.2020)



Jim and Ginger Hobbs moved here to the Florence area from Shady Cove Oregon near Medford. They quickly became friends with many of us in the Rhody society. They were always willing to help in any way they could with the shows and sales as well as the auctions. I have many pictures of Jim helping put up and take down the racks before and after shows, and don't remember a one when he didn't have a big smile on his face.



I was very sad to hear that they had decided to move to Arizona to be nearer their children, but I understood the need to be close to your kids. Ginger said he passed away last July from cancer, and although he's gone, we have our memories of him. Rest in Peace, Jim. You will be missed.

If anyone would care to email Ginger, her email is hobbhouse@gmail.com

—Sandi Jensen



above: *R. 'Cilpinense'*

Rhody Foliage



right: *R. 'Snow Lady'*

foliage photos: Harold Greer

In Memoriam: Diane Hunter Mason (d. 12/23/2020)



Diane and Lois at a Siuslaw ARS Chapter meeting

Our Siuslaw Chapter member, Diane Hunter Mason, passed away last year. Her friend Lois Bravo wrote this remembrance.

Diane Hunter Mason, 79, of Florence Oregon passed away peacefully at her home with her husband George by her side on Wednesday, December 23, 2020. She was born Diane Bobby on March 31, 1941. She leaves behind her husband George, daughter Diana in Texas, son Vernon of Chico California, four grandchildren, and eight great-grandchildren. She spent her early years raising her two children between California and Reno Nevada. After many years of RVing through the Pacific Northwest with her good friend Lois Bravo of 50+ years, she decided to move to Florence. Here they became members of the rhody society. Diane also volunteered with the sewing group of PeaceHealth. George has since moved to Hawaii to be near his son and daughter-in-law.

ARS Seed Exchange is Open

The ARS Seed Exchange is open now. Only ARS members may place orders until March 15; after that, ordering is open to the general public. Order your seeds now for the best selection.

Start here for links to the Seed Exchange:
<http://rhododendron.org/seedexchange.htm>



The Prchals are sprouting R. ririeii from Larry Jensen's seeds.

Calendar of Events 2021

March 10	Willamette Chapter Zoom at 7:00pm Richard Hebda on the future of Rhododendrons. Invitation and link here .
March 15	Only ARS members can order from the ARS Seed Exchange until March 15. After that, the public can order. Start here .
March 17	De Anza Chapter Zoom at 4:00pm Sharon Bryson on "Peonies: Bloom and Beyond." Invitation and link here .
March 17	Eugene Chapter Zoom at 7:00pm Tim Walsh on Plants in the Humboldt Botanical Garden. Invitation and link here .
March 18	Portland Chapter Zoom at 7:00pm Richie Steffen on The Miller Garden. Invitation and link here .
March 25	Eureka Chapter Zoom at 6:55pm Marc Colombel on Propagation by an Amateur for Amateurs Invitation and link here .
June 3-6	Rhododendrons Down East ARS 2021 Spring Conference online More here .

*A friend suggested horse manure on my strawberries. I am not doing that again.
I am going back to whipped cream.*

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/ARSStore.org)

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