

OCTOBER 2021

Siuslaw Chapter

American Rhododendron Society

P.O. Box 1701

Florence OR. 97439-0111



On the internet

- Facebook: Coastal Rhododendrons
- Web site: www.siuslawars.org



UPCOMING CHAPTER EVENTS:

Board Meeting: Tuesday , October 12th at Sandi and Bill Hennigs' home at 05638 Martin Rd. at 6:30 P.M.

Unfortunately our future meetings are on hold for the time being. We will let you know when we know!

October Meeting: Cancelled for lack of a place to meet!



OTHER OREGON CHAPTER MEETINGS AND WEBSITES

[EUGENE CHAPTER:](#) 3rd Wednesday of each month at The Springs at Greer Gardens, 1282 Goodpasture Island Road, Eugene, Oregon at 7PM October through March unless otherwise specified. Unfortunately, face to face meetings are currently suspended due to Covid 19. Website : eugene-chapter-ars.org

[PORTLAND CHAPTER:](#)

Meetings 3rd Thursdays, September-May When safe again, chapter meetings will be held at:

All Saints Episcopal Church 4033 SE Woodstock Blvd. Portland the program begins at 7 pm. Website : rhodies.org

[TUALATIN VALLEY CHAPTER:](#) First Tuesday of the month at 6:45 pm Washington County Fire District 2 31370 NW Commercial Street North Plains, OR 97133 Website : tuatitINVALLEYARS.org

[SOUTHWESTERN OREGON:](#) Disbanded

[WILLAMETTE CHAPTER :](#) Meetings **Due to Covid-19, our current chapter meetings are held online via Zoom on the 2nd Wednesday of the month from September through May. Socializing begins at 6:30pm, with the meeting and speaker at 7:00pm. The Zoom link is sent via email and listed in the newsletter. This form of meeting will continue until in-person meetings can safely be resumed.** Arswillamette.org

[NOYO CHAPTER:](#) noyochapterars.com

[EUREKA CHAPTER:](#) eurekarhody.org

[MT. ARROWSMITH RHODODENDRON SOCIETY:](#) marsrhodos.ca

All other web sites can be found on rhododendron.org under chapters web sites.

I'm Back! Unfortunately, Patricia Swift was no longer able to continue with the Macrophyllum, and for better or worse, I have agreed to put my version together again, until someone else is willing to take it on. My computer does not have the advanced program to do it the same way as Patricia's, nor do I have the skills. I hope you will all bear with me! A number of us from Siuslaw went south to the last meeting of the Southwest Oregon Chapter. It was bittersweet! Meeting old friends, and knowing that we wouldn't be joining them at their meetings or their show! Hopefully many of them will join our membership and when we are able to meet in person, come to our meetings and shows!



L>R Ron Prchal, Cheryl Prchal, Mike Bones, Ray Lee, Pete Baumer, Candy Baumer, Bill Hennig, Sandi Hennig, Karen Cyrus, Marjean McIntyre, Larry Jensen, Liz Hultin, Sandi Jensen, and Day Farrald.



Past Presidents Message by Larry Jensen



September and October are a couple of my favorite months. The weather is finally cooling off a bit with a shower now and then. Around home we have all the good produce. Tomatoes, zucchini, apples, grapes and so on. It's a tasty time of the year as well.

In April through May our native dogwood (*cornus nuttallii*) shows off great flowers. By September, the seeds of the dogwoods have formed, bringing the birds to harvest them. We have flocks of robins, grey and Stellar Jays and many other small birds,

but the show is the Pileated Woodpeckers! Their calls as they fly through the woods sounds like recordings I've heard of jungle birds. They are about the size of a crow, and when they land on the flimsy dogwood branches, they hang upside down while they eat. The flickers also show up for the dogwood feast.



This is the time of year to plant. I have figured out where I can squeeze in a few more fine plants. About 25 or so. If you aren't going to plant more rhodies, you might want to check the mulch around existing plants. The bark decomposes and the roots can become exposed. If this has happened to your plants, a little new mulch may be in order.

LJ

Labels Unraveled by Kath Collier

Have you found the best way to label your plants? If so, you are incredibly smart, dedicated, and have done your homework. There are so many choices it is difficult to determine what is the best label for our needs.

For most of us, we may be inclined to use that same old labeling strategy and, unfortunately, getting the same old results. There is never enough time for all of the care and labeling may just not be at the top of your priorities... but maybe there are things that can be done to minimize this chore and create labels that last longer and perform better.

What do you need in a label?

There are thousands of options to choose from...some which you can purchase and others that you can build. There may not be enough time in our lives to try all of them, experience failure on many, and look for long term success. Labels come in every size, shape, material, etc. than you can imagine.

First off, perennials need a more permanent label, unlike annuals. We need them to last more than one season and not fade. Perennial labels need to be:

- **Durable and weatherproof** – They need to stay put and not be removed by wind, squirrels, crows, pets, or little kids. Something that is nearly indestructible may be needed for perennials that live a long time, like trees and shrubs.
- **UV and Waterproof** – This can apply both to the label itself and the way the information is applied. Plastic stakes will turn brittle over time and water, as in mass quantities of rain can cause the label to peel off a stake in no time.
- **Easy to find and read** – This may be a trait of how large the label is and where it must be put. I want something that will still be functional after 10 years of growth. Permanent markers are not forever. Look for Industrial markers, soft/wide/dark pencils, enamel paint pens which are quick and easy to use. Etching metal, such as recycled soda cans cut to labels, can be difficult to impress lettering on. The etching can get worn overtime and be hard to read as the metal flattens out.
- **Easy to make by hand.** When do you need a label? Usually when your hands are in the dirt. Stopping to make them on the computer is really not very convenient unless you are making many, many of them.
- **Inexpensive.** If you only need 10 labels, you might be able to throw caution to the wind and buy or create some fantastic plant labels. Most of us passed 10 plants before joining the American Rhododendron Society.



These 'reader board' type labels will last a long time when written on with enamel paint or soft pencil. They can be expensive however.



The end of a 2-foot 'reader label' label made from an old mini-blind slat and soft pencil.

Get Defensive

Strategy 1: Employ more than one label

Label Idea 1: “Just in case” is, to me, a label buried at the base of the plant (in the ground and/or pot). In soil, a plastic label, for instance, is protected and the pencil ink will last a long time. Will you be able to find this ‘just in case’ label in 10 years? Maybe. Maybe not. Try to be fairly consistent where the label is buried will really help.

This could also be a painted rock or even a ceramic plate. To help your sign last longer, be sure to apply a clear seal coat when dry.



Sealed properly this label could last a long time.

Label Idea 2: The ‘reader board’ – the purpose of this label is to make it easy to read the name or number or however you keep track of your babies. It needs to be simple, with large letters, and positioned where it can be easily read. My favorites are:

Label Idea 3: The ‘bracelet’ this label is placed on one of the plant branches and could be made of metal, plastic laminated materials, etc. The plant can outgrow the diameter of the label and become entrenched within a branch, cut off during pruning, and potentially choke a plant to death.

Strategy 2: Consider creating a garden map.

Consider drawing a map of your garden. It is even better when you note what plants are in what location. This technique works great if you have standard names for locations (for us, we have a tree stump that looks like a heart, so that garden became the “Heart Garden”).

Create garden place names that can be referred to in the inventory which could be say a row or bed number, or even directional notes (for instance, northside, Heart Garden).

Create and maintain a garden inventory. An inventory could include much more than just plant names. Some people include images and lots of details such as: locations, planting dates, size when planted/projected size, source, bloom color/time, plant label locations, problems, etc.

Detailed plant locations could be identified using Global Positioning System (GPS) technology. These can be found in the hunting and hiking store sections. Detailed plant data could be read through a QR code link on your smartphone.

Our labels are not perfect—we are learning and upgrading them every year and disaster has struck more than once. And, yes, we use three labels on every rhododendron, garden location names, and have a detailed inventory. The labels help us to learn and remember the names and admire the plants.

I would like to think that guests would be drawn into our garden when they see an easy-to-read label. I want my guests to enjoy the plants as much as I do. Labeling them, makes it possible for our visitors to describe what they like, ask for cuttings, research and learn more about it, and shop for it at our next sale.



QR code sample.



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

Dues are due, and we need you!!!

You have probably all received your renewal papers by now, and many of you may wonder if you should renew. I hope you will vote YES!!! We are working hard to keep you informed and we want everyone to know how important you are to the ARS and especially the local Siuslaw group. It is important to us to have in person meetings again, as well as in person shows in the spring, and if the downward trends continue, that can probably (hopefully) happen soon. The board has gotten the website updated by a man by the name of Glenn Singley. He has updated the website, and made it more user friendly. It even has a link to the virtual show that took place this spring. Hopefully that can continue. Check it out, and please stay with us for meetings to come! SJ

October Meeting Plans for Eugene ARS Chapter Meeting:



Wednesday, October 20, 2021

6:30 pm - Social

7:00 pm – Business Meeting and Program

“Pruning Rhododendrons – How and When”
A Video Presentation by Don Wallace,
as presented to the Eureka ARS Chapter in December, 2020

ZOOM link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86900120737?pwd=dC9lOXpUWWhwTU13TlVXQUF1VzhHdz09>

Meeting ID: 869 0012 0737 Passcode: 907426

PORTLAND ZOOM MEETING : DAVID ANDERSON & ANDREW STERN “Our Northern Cascade Rhododendrons: Friends and Family”

Thursday, October 21

Session opens 6:30 PM; Meeting 7:00 PM

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84885825966>

Meeting ID: 848 8582 5966

One tap mobile: +12532158782,,84885825966#

Dial option: 253-215-8782



David and Andrew, avid hikers, found a mutual interest as naturalists, now taking weekly hikes all over the Northwest exploring and discovering interesting botanical and entomological (insect study) specimens. They use inaturalist.com as a source of identification and contribute their own findings. They have focused their plant hunting on the search for *R. macrophyllum*, the reliable roadside native found in upper elevations of Washington and Oregon. They will share the spotlight with the other Northwest native rhododendrons – *R. menziesii* and *R. albiflorum* – and the plants typically found accompanying them. David’s article “The Search for the Wild Rhododendron” was published in the *ARS Journal* (JARS) in [Spring of 2021](#) (note: requires member login). David and Andrew are members of the Board of Directors of the ARS Portland Chapter.



WILLAMETTE CHAPTER ZOOM MEETING

This is to announce the great presentation by Dr. Glen Jamieson of his remarkable expedition to Mt Kilabalu, Highest peak in SE Asia. You need only click on the blue link below. If you have not used Zoom before, the link will take you first for a quick and easy Zoom registration. There is no fee.

Topic: October WCARS Meeting

Time: Oct 13, 2021 06:30 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82208341281>

Meeting ID: 822 0834 1281

One tap mobile

+12532158782,,82208341281# US (Tacoma)



Hello Fellow Rhodie Enthusiasts,

Another month has passed, and it seems we are no closer to eradicating this terrible plight than a year ago. The challenges have made us more resilient and allowed us to discover ways to circumvent the inconveniences thrown upon us.

With that in mind, we as a chapter, must put our collective minds together and develop solutions to keep our Chapter vibrant and growing. If we stagnate, we will not survive. So, please share your ideas.

It has been suggested we keep the virtual show going this Spring since it was received well last year. And what about a 'name this Rhodie' online?

Cuttings are always a test for those of us with limited, or negative, experience in that endeavor. These could be rooted by a skilled propagator willing to help our Chapter. After these have taken root, we would grow them in containers to share with the Chapter for plant sales or auctions.

Zoom is becoming the norm regarding meetings. It allows us to see our friends' beautiful mugs and share our knowledge of the genus rhododendron. Presentations by guest speakers can be arranged followed by a Q & A. If you have not participated in a zoom meeting, you should try it.

I would also like to welcome our fellow Rhodie enthusiasts from the Southwest Chapter. It is a bittersweet welcome; their Chapter has chosen to dissolve due to lack of participation, but we have gained new members with great knowledge and a willingness to share. Many of the SWO Chapter members we already know. Some have helped judge our shows while others have dazzled us with fantastic trusses and participated in our meetings and auctions.

We have updated our website siuslawars.org so be sure to look at it, and let us know what you think of the new look! Give us some feedback about additions or subtractions. It was done by Glenn Singley of Florence who may continue to keep it up for us. Thanks Glenn!

I miss seeing your smiling faces and hope we will soon be able to meet in person. Until that time arrives, we must not allow complacency to dictate our path. Please contact me with any ideas you might have to keep the candle burning bright.

Remember, roots go down, green parts go up...unless it's a deciduous azalea, then you're on your own. Thanks for your participation.

Day Farrald

541-590-3161

Day817@outlook.com



Chapter Contacts

President: Day Farrald 2023
541-590-3161
day817@outlook.com

Vice-President:
Bill Hennig - 2023
541-997-2489
billhennig40@gmail.com

Secretary: Kathy Bones – 2022
541-997-3082
kathybones@charter.net

Treasurer: Pam Guettler 2022
425-346-6628
pamguettler@gmail.com

Past President : Larry Jensen
541-852-7031
sfuchsia@gmail.com

Board Members:
Mike Bones 2022
541-997-3082
rhodies@charter.net

Debbie Peterson 2023
541-997-1212
beachbabybaubles@gmail.com

Sandi Hennig 2024
541-997-2489
flendish42@gmail.com

Sunshine: Sandi Hennig
541-997-2489
flendish42@gmail.com

Newsletter Editor: Sandi Jensen
541-505-4246
sfuchsia@gmail.com

Publicity: Day Farrald
541-590-3161
day817@outlook.com

Dinner co-ordinators :
Sandi Hennig
541-997-2489
flendish42@gmail.com

Lee Goodenough
559-288-5658
secretlgood@gmail.com

Membership: JoAnn Wilson
541-902-9780
nanabanana339@gmail.com



Here's the fellow Larry calls "Bubba" in the woods behind our house



r. Augustini in the RSBG



Our Great Granddaughter Addison in one of her favorite places!