

NOVEMBER 2023

MACROPHYLLUM

Siuslaw Chapter  
American Rhododendron Society  
P.O. Box 1701  
Florence OR. 97439-0111



On the internet

• Web site: [www.siuslawars.org](http://www.siuslawars.org)



**UPCOMING CHAPTER EVENTS:**

**Meeting topic:** Ali Sarlak showing pictures and telling about his and his wife Gloria's visit to Schreiner's Iris nursery and Adelman, who specializes in Peonies.

**Board Meeting:** Tuesday, November 14, at 6:00 pm and the wrap-up meeting for the conference is at 6:30 pm at Mike and Kathy Bones home.

**Chapter Meeting:** The Siuslaw Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society will meet Tuesday, October 17<sup>th</sup> at the Presbyterian Church of the Siuslaw, 3669 Highway 101 in Florence, 6:30 for refreshments, 7:00 for the meeting.

**Pre-Meeting Dinner:** Our pre-meeting dinner will be at Mo's this month. Call or email Sandi Hennig at 541-997-2489 or [flendish42@gmail.com](mailto:flendish42@gmail.com) **Be sure to reserve your place at the dinner table!** Be there for great fun, great food, & great company.

**Cookie team:** Cheryl Beauvais, Nancy Burns, Sharon Mason, Debie King

**Christmas Party:** December 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Oddfellows Campground on South Jetty road. More details later!



**Other Westcoast Chapter Meetings and websites**

**EUGENE CHAPTER:** Website : [eugene-chapter-ars.org](http://eugene-chapter-ars.org)

**PORTLAND CHAPTER:**

**Meetings** 3rd Thursdays, September-May . Chapter meetings will be held at: Reedwood Friends Church 2901 SE Steele Street Portland 97202 the program begins at 7 pm. Website : [rhodies.org](http://rhodies.org)

**WILLAMETTE CHAPTER :** Dinner and the program will take place in the Bearcat Room at the RAM Restaurant and Brewery at 515 12th St. SE, Salem, OR 97301. Dinner at 5:00pm and the program at 7:00p [Arswillamette.org](http://Arswillamette.org)

**NOYO CHAPTER:** [WWW.noyochapterars.org](http://WWW.noyochapterars.org)

**EUREKA CHAPTER:** [eurekarhody.org](http://eurekarhody.org)

**MT. ARROWSMITH RHODODENDRON SOCIETY:** Mars General Meeting October 11, 2023 at 7:30 pm Qualicum Beach Civic Centre. [marsrhodos.ca](http://marsrhodos.ca)

All other web sites can be found on [rhododendron.org](http://rhododendron.org) under chapters web sites.

Some of these meetings will have changed or relocated , but this is what I have at this time.





Such a great group of people, and a fun week-end.





My presentation will be about several plant nurseries my wife, Gloria, and I visited during the Labor Day weekend. One was Schreiner's, who specializes with Irises and Adelman, who grows Peonies. They both are located in the Willamette Valley. They had an open house that weekend with public displays for all. There were many varieties of plants, arts with special use and designs in mind. It was very relaxing to spend hours in both places. They were informative and loaded with ideas that you can do in your own gardens.



I remember our dear friend, Harold Greer, and how he always had his camera around his neck. Now you might see me the same way! I love taking pictures, especially of nature. I regularly put some of my photos on the ARS, Portland Chapter and Friends Face Book Pages.

Thanks for allowing me to share my photos with all of you.  
Ali



**Hello, Rhody Fanatics. WE/YOU DID IT! Our conference is in the books, and it was a great success. All those in attendance had accolades about every aspect of the Conference, from the various speakers, the plant sales, the silent auction, the food, cookies, hospitality, housing, table favors, and the venue.**

**If I attempted to name everyone who had a part in this endeavor, I know I would miss some people. So, please give yourselves a pat on the back for a job well done and know Mike and I appreciate all your hard work. Our little village of 9,000 accomplished a fete much larger Chapters have had difficulty achieving.**

**Our next board meeting will be held at the Bones house at 6PM on Tuesday the 14 th . This will be followed by a post- Conference meeting at 6:30. The purpose will be to fine tune and iron out any problems we encountered so we can circumvent those hiccups at future conferences. Please attend. We need your constructive criticism and suggestions.**

**The general membership meeting will be on the 21<sup>st</sup> with our good friend Ali Sarlak speaking...always entertaining. Also, please bring your dues if you have not paid, yet. After the 1<sup>st</sup> of December you will miss the next edition of the Journal.**

**And what about our Christmas party on December 3<sup>rd</sup> . Gather at noon, eat at one. Start thinking about what you might bring. A side dish and a gift to exchange.**

**See you at both meetings.**

**Any questions or comments please contact me, Day Farrald, at [day817@outlook.com](mailto:day817@outlook.com), 541- 579-5544, or 541 – 590- 3161.**



#### **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.**



We've lived just "over the hill" from Sandi and Larry Jensen for about 44 years. Our place is located in a little valley about a mile from the highway, and it is a haven for deer and elk, along with a few carnivores. The deer seem to consider that since they were here first, everything we plant is an offering to them in thanks for allowing us to live in their territory.

So, not surprisingly, most of my flowering plants and fruit trees are fenced. Outside the fenced areas, I grow anything that is touted to be "deer resistant," i.e. rhododendrons, lavender, catmint, hellebore, and ferns. I tried a few annual flowers that I had been told repelled deer, such as marigolds, zinnias, and scented geraniums. But our deer found all of their blooms delish, especially in late summer when the grasses had all dried up. They even ate succulents that I had in pots on our deck! I put cages around many shrubs, which wasn't very pretty, and used various means to keep the critters off the few flowers at our front entry. It was a war I was losing.

I did try a few home remedies over the years such as hot sauce, garlic powder, liquid dish soap, and egg whites, to name a few, but nothing worked for long, apparently dissipating quickly. Finally last year I spotted a fairly new (to me) product on the market called Liquid Fence. Here's their pitch, "Liquid Fence works on scent, unlike other repellents that require the animals to browse to be effective, so deer and rabbits don't even have to take a bite to be repelled. Because the animals' natural aversion to this scent will never diminish, this product does not have to be rotated with other repellent brands." I bought a gallon with more than a little skepticism.

The ingredients sounded interesting: putrescent white egg solids, garlic, sodium lauryl sulfate, potassium sulfide, and thyme oil; plus water, sodium citrate, sodium benzoate, citric acid, and xanthan gum. The stuff is harmless unless you drink it, so

don't do that. And some folks have an issue with sodium benzoate, a preservative, so wear gloves if that's a worry.

I started using Liquid Fence late last summer on those flowering plants at the front entry. I had been keeping deer away from them with a motion-detecting water sprayer or else just covering everything up every evening. Since it was about time



for plants to be put away for the winter anyway, I decided to sacrifice these for science. I sprayed them with Liquid Fence and stopped covering them up.

It seemed to work! The deer avoided our entry after that. The

smell isn't great, but once it dries, it's not even noticeable.

So this season I planted all kinds of flowering plants in my landscapes. I diligently sprayed everything I didn't want the deer to munch on, and re-applied it every couple of weeks, and of course any time I introduced a new plant. One time I forgot to spray three little gazania plants I bought and planted. The next morning two were chewed to the nubs and the other was yanked out of the ground. But, right next to them, a hosta (a deer favorite) was untouched. I had sprayed it. In another spot, I had sprayed orange cosmos when I planted them, but then forgot to reapply when the blooms came on, and the deer ate them all. I sprayed again, the deer stayed away and the cosmos bloomed profusely without being munched on again. So, the trick is, spray when there is a lot of new growth. And if you can, leave the deer something they can eat. It's only fair, right?

So far everyone I have recommended this product to has had good results. While there are still instances of unwanted munching, overall it's been a great deterrent. We can enjoy watching the deer stomping around in our yard in the evening without me running out the door and screaming at them to stay the heck off my flowers! And that's not exactly what I scream.

*Robin Koontz, Walton, Oregon*

PS I do not work for the makers of Liquid Fence or any of their affiliates, and Amazon does not give me any kickbacks if any orders come in after you read this article.

## ARS Western Regional Conference - Florence, OR

The conference was held at the Florence Event Center. This venue was very modern and large and impressive. The facility was "Top Drawer" as was the catering.

This was a very good and fun conference. For starters, there was coffee and other beverages and a plethora of home baked cookies and more available throughout the whole conference. The Siuslaw chapter members kept baking and bringing it on. There was a very good variety of plants, Rhodies et al, at the plant sale. There were a lot of fun people to meet and reminisce with, as well as talk plants with. The conference started Thursday, Oct 19<sup>th</sup> evening with social time from 4 – 7 PM including plenty of snacks and drinks.

On the morning of Friday October 20<sup>th</sup>, the program was kicked off by a welcome/orientation talk and an official welcome from a City Council woman representing the mayor of Florence. The ever entertaining Jack Olson gave The first talk "My Favorite Flowers" with a broad representation of Hybrids and Species photos and discussion about what was special about these plants, and with discussion of and explanation of Hybrid and Hybridizer history and the presentation of sister seedlings mixed in. Jack is a great teacher. He defines the botanical terms he uses as he goes along. (He is a retired teacher and coach).

The next presentation was Sandi Jensen on Fuchsias. This was a great program including all the nuts and bolts, failures and successes as well as all the pretty flowers. Sandi's talk was so good that I asked her to present it to the WCARS at our meeting November 8<sup>th</sup>.

Next was Florence Chapter president, Day Farrald, with "Geriatric Hybrids" ...A review of the old timer rhododendrons that are so good and some of which can still be purchased at nurseries. Very interesting. Gets my blood rushing.

We broke for lunch.....Many great restaurants in the nearby Old Town area, and funky fun shops, all very nice old buildings from time past. Old town is on the waterfront where fishing boats are moored. Very atmospheric as well as scenic.

After lunch the first speaker was Mike Bamford, the Eastern VP, talking about deciduous azaleas. I loved this talk. It was deciduous azaleas that lured me into the ARS. Lots of good photos of species and hybrids including the crosses made to create these beauties. There is a lot of countryside in the SE US where the hills are covered with these azaleas. Remember that there is The Azalea Society of America.

The next talk was by Augie Bergman. Titled "Rhody Wood". In reality, Augie has rarely made anything out of rhody wood. But he gave us an excellent talk, with examples, about his history with wood turning and a lot about how one must select and treat the wood before turning it on the lathe. He sources almost all of his wood from fallen trees in this area. He had many beautiful examples of his work. He gave the technique and history of making these pieces.

Next was Will Clawson, Horticulturist and Assistant Curator of the Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden. Will gave a history of the RSBG as well as showing us how all the improvements are made and why they are made and what is new and planned for the future. Will is a superior field botanist and photographer as one might tell from his articles in "Rhododendron Species", the annual journal of the RSBG.

After Will's program the plant sale and silent auction were open from 4-6 PM. About the silent auction: Every chapter and several businesses contributed baskets that attendees could bid on. Adele O'Neal from our chapter created a beautiful, large basket including donations of wine, nuts, and a host of goodies from chapter members. The Silent Auction made \$900 for the Siuslaw Chapter to help defray the costs of this conference. (There were slightly less than 100 registered as some nearby chapters participated almost not at all. So, the silent auction proceeds helped the Siuslaw Chapter near the break-even point.)

I should also mention here that there was a book sale with many excellent volumes going for very modest, almost free, prices. Willamette Chapter contributed excess journals and books from the 2022 ARS convention book sale in Vancouver, WA.

The after-dinner speaker was Lorrie Zeller-Bolivar. Lorrie is the director of Log Cabin Nursery. She gave a charming and insightful history of the Log Cabin Nursery in Springfield, all the nuts and bolts. Lorrie showed us that there is no "down season" at Log Cabin. The nursery staff are very busy year 'round with no slowdowns. It is a really good story.

(this is where Anne Gross goes to get the plants we sell at the Smith garden and in our chapter plant sales). The nursery did start in a log cabin. Later on, Saturday night, Log Cabin Nursery Founder and CEO, Terry Henderson, joined us for dinner. Lorrie's program was so good that I asked her if she would present it to our chapter. But true to form, she is just too busy to get away from the nursery. Maybe I can convince Lorrie to do a Zoom program for us.

Next morning, Saturday October 21 was as nice a day outside as could be. I walked the streets of Old Town starting at 6 AM. On foot, one sees a lot more. As I strolled past the "Rest-O-Bar" a gent passing me advised that this establishment made great Pizzas and Philly Cheese Steak sandwiches.

The conference kicked off at 9 AM with Jack Olson talking on "Foliage and Buds". Any talk given by Jack will keep you awake. His talks are always lively and educational and include his beautiful photography.

Next was Mark Akimoff, our WCARS October speaker, with a program on rare bulbs. Mark is a professional grade photographer. He does wonderful landscape photos as well as those of the flowers of the bulbs et al that he propagates. Check out the Illahe Rare Plants website if you want to see what I mean. Mark's program was very educational as well as beautiful. Who knew what fantastic plants grew in our wild areas.

Next was Mike Bones of the Siuslaw Chapter. Mike is the just past district 4 director. Mike gave a discussion of how the Siuslaw Chapter had integrated with the Florence community, including the schools and civic organizations. The walls of our conference room were covered with the rhododendron art projects that Florence school kids did. I think that there were about 20 classrooms represented with their work hung on the walls all around the conference/dining room and covering the speaker's dais. (the Siuslaw Chapter is the biggest in the West). What energy this chapter has.

Next was lunch on our own. We took the local's advice and had lunch at the Rest-O-Bar. A super meal. Mary Crofts ate with us. She found out about this establishment's great Lasagna. It was great in the taste sense and in the size sense. She took home a box that would cover at least two more meals. Really overwhelmed my car's air supply.

After lunch our speaker was Linda Derkach, president of the ARS. Linda led an audience participation discussion on how to build up your chapter. How to better your chapter. There was a lot of back and forth with the attendees. Between Linda and Mike Bones I made note of about 20 suggestions, which I typed up for discussion at our Nov 1<sup>st</sup> WCARS Board meeting. I will pass these notes out at our Nov. 8<sup>th</sup> program.

Next was to be Cara Michelle Still from OSU plant research to discuss hybridizing. Cara could not make it so we had another OSU plant researcher discuss plant genetics. Her project is to genetically engineer useful plants that are invasive so that they are no longer invasive but are still environmentally useful.

The next speaker was Atsuko Gibson presenting her expedition to her homeland of Japan, in search of native rhododendrons in several locales. Atsuko was born and raised in Japan. As part of a visit home with her family, the family took trips to several of the wild places that they could access on the Island of Honshu. We got to see – as my memory serves me - R.pentaphyllum and R. quinquefolium and relatives and a few other Japanese rhododendrons in the wild. Atsuko gave us insights about family life in Tokyo and a good look at Japanese countryside. (Atsuko is highly skilled in horticulture. For many years she had been chief propagator at the RSBG. Now she is Assistant Director as well as supervisor and worker in almost everything. All of the staff at RSBG spend some hard hours in the garden.)

After dinner we had a short colorful and inviting program by Richard Fairfield on "Rhododendrons on the 49<sup>th</sup> Parallel", the 2024 ARS International Conference in Bellingham, WA May 2-5. Sounds Good!

Our after-dinner speaker was Richard Favell on "Big Leaf Rhododendrons". This gentleman has a garden in Connecticut and one in Florence. Richard showed us how he is working on developing big leaf hybrids (and maybe more hardy selections from species seedlings) that can withstand harsher weather than their progenitors. Very fascinating.

With the announcement of the Silent Auction winners, the conference was adjourned for perusal of the plant sale and well lubricated and well-fed conversation.

Keith White



**Thank You Keith. That really encompasses the whole Conference for those who were not fortunate enough to attend. Hopefully we can all go to the Convention Next May . I know I am looking forward to it! Sandi Jensen**

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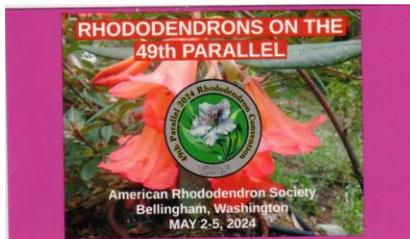
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Naselle gave us one bloom before the latest cold snap.



Not the greatest picture, but it is certainly a wonderful plant. It is Camellia sasanqua 'Polar Ice'



Here are the cards we were given to advertise the upcoming Convention in Bellingham in May. We're planning on going, are you?



This is our grandson and his wife and kids that I took at our annual Great Pumpkin Massacre. Daddy was trying to restrain the young wiggles, and Mom was giving Addison sugar!



As I was doing some cleaning outside my greenhouse, I ran across this guy. Can you see him?



Laughing is good exercise. It's like jogging on the inside.



Today's mighty oak is just yesterday's nut that held its ground...

