

September 2015

Siuslaw Chapter
American Rhododendron Society
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UPCOMING CHAPTER EVENTS:

Meeting topic: Tuesday, September 15th -7 pm Rhododendron Care and Propagation

Board Meeting: Tuesday, September 8th -at Jim and Sylvia Smith's home in Mapleton at 6:30.

Chapter Meeting-: The Siuslaw Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society will meet Tuesday, September 15th , at the Presbyterian Church of the Siuslaw, 3669 Highway 101 in Florence, at 6.30 pm for refreshments. The meeting and program to follow at 7 pm. The meeting is free and open to all.

Pre-Meeting Dinner will be at 5pm at Ichiban. Please call Sandi Hennig to make reservations at [541-997-2489](tel:541-997-2489) or e-mail her at flendish@q.com Be there for great fun, great food, & great company.

Gallagher Park Work Party: There will be a work party on Wednesday, September 16th at 10 until noon (weather permitting) . Any questions call Gene Cockeram at 541-997-2377 or email toflowerman@gmail.com

Cookie Team- Steve Price, Ginger Hobbs, Sandi Hennig, & Sandi Jensen

There is a change coming to the Siuslaw ARS! We are going to try having our meetings early, from 4-6 for the October, November, January, and February meetings. We will make reservations for dinner to follow the meetings (6:30)



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.

I thank the previous Board for the great work that they did during their individual terms. With everyone's help, we will continue to be a leading Chapter in the American Rhododendron Society. Remember you can always contact a Board member by phone, e-mail or in person with your ideas to help us grow. You are also welcome to attend any board meeting on the second Tuesday of every month.

This has been one of the driest years that I can remember. I do hope that you kept your plants watered. If they were in pots they needed it almost every day. In good soil and lots of bark, they could have survived. In Florence with the sandy soil, more water is needed. During this past year, all of my plants in the R. Taliense Series have gone on to Rhody Heaven. I'm not sure why they died. Common reasons could be lack of or too much water, over fertilizing, planting too deep, disease or just their time. Not knowing for sure why they died, I burned the plants to keep them from possibly contaminating my compost pile.

Our first meeting will be propagation (starting) of Rhododendrons, Azaleas and the fall care of Rhododendrons. If you have a friend or two that would like more information, please invite them to come. Rhododendron Chapters are full of intriguing and inquisitive people having a good time.

The rains will soon be upon us and it will be time for fertilizing, transplanting, and purchasing new plants to improve our gardens. Early bloomers will be showing their colors as early as January.

I am looking forward to seeing you at the meetings. Mike



Past Presidents message, by Larry Jensen

Welcome back everyone. It's been a busy, hot summer on this side of the hills. Everytime I drive over to Florence it is 65 to 70 °f and perfect. I have to take exception with the weather service though. They were saying this was such a long, hot summer but there was another month to go. I would think the nice cool weather we are having now would change the average!

We had a great time at the annual picnic in June, and also the other day at Ann Drake's in Coquille for a cutting party, and pot-luck. Her place is so special, and we thank Ann and Michael for sharing it with us !

Finally just in time for Labor Day week-end they finished painting and putting in rumble strips and reflectors on Badger Pass. Now we hear people trying out the new rumble strips. (rather annoying)

September is a good time to give the rhodies a light shot of fertilizer on the coast. On this side of the hill, we want to encourage them to be more dormant going into winter.

Don't forget the board meeting at Smiths on September 8th, and the first meeting on September 15th. The pre-meeting dinner is at Ichiban. Hope to see everyone there.LJ



Larry has been constructing again. Real rhody leaves set in concrete, then painted by Gavin and I.



Pretty red thing that was blooming in the park in July when we were there.

For those of you who had not heard about Jan Shepherd, I am including the following tribute provided by her daughter , Elizabeth Gaupo. Jan was known to most of us as an expert on Rhodies, but there was much more to her that not everyone knew.

Janet L. Shepherd



March 14, 1942 – June 14, 2015

Janet Lee Shepherd of Salem passed away on June 14, 2015, surrounded by her family. Janet was born in Eugene on March 14, 1942 to Leroy Inman and Iris Barker Inman and was the eldest of four children. She grew up in Roseburg, graduating from Roseburg High School in 1960. She attended the University of Oregon and graduated with a Bachelor's in Elementary Education. There she met Ron Crandall of Eugene and in 1963 they were married. Janet taught school for five years until her daughters were born. In 1975 she moved to Florence and some years later, following a divorce, married Dave Shepherd. In 2010 Jan and Dave moved to Salem to be near Jan's daughters after she suffered a stroke. Her husband of 26 years passed away in 2013.

Jan was a woman of many interests. She was very musical and sang in community choirs. She was an accomplished organist and played piano and guitar. She spoke Spanish and French. Jan was always a "do-it-yourselfer." She loved gardening, canning, quilting and sewing, kept bees and chickens, crafted furniture and restored antiques. As an adult she began taking ballet and danced for several years. She was an avid reader and lover of classical music. Jan had many occupations during her life, working as a teacher, community college instructor, seamstress, church organist and real estate agent. She owned a sewing shop and managed a rhododendron nursery with her husband. Jan and Dave were involved in the Siuslaw Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society for over 35 years. Jan served a term as chapter president and also as Western Regional Conference Chairwoman for the ARS. They were well-known throughout the Florence community.

Janet was preceded in death by her sister Laurel Everett, her mother Iris, her father Leroy and her husband Dave. She is survived by her brother Larry Inman of Livermore, CA, her sister Kathe Cartmell of Tualatin, her daughters Elizabeth Gaupo and Deborah Walsh, both of Salem, stepchildren Darryl Shepherd and Debra Murray, and seven grandchildren – Holden, Isabela, Marah, Toby, Kyan, Ronan and Merek. She was well-loved and will be greatly missed.

A memorial service was held in Salem on Saturday, June 20 at St. Timothy's Episcopal Church, 3295 Ladd Ave NE. A private interment will be held at a later date at Roseburg Memorial Gardens. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to St. Timothy's Episcopal Church Music Fund, PO Box 7416, Salem, OR, 97303.



Here are a couple vireyas blooming on our back deck, and they smell good!





It was a glorious day, and we had a great meal followed by elections, followed by a fun plant game! It would be nice to know what everyone thought of just having one picnic. I know for us it was easier. We didn't get to go to the other chapters picnics, but usually do. Please let a board member know what YOU want! I know we will take everyone's comments into consideration when the decision is made about next summer.



Dear Dr. Rhody,

This summer some of my favorite plants suffered leaf burn. These plants have never been affected by the heat before. Do you have any possible explanations for the damage?

I have an automatic watering system and it was set the same as it has been for the last five years. The temperature this summer did not exceed 95°F. Last summer, and the summer before, we had temperatures of at least 103°F. What could cause this damage?

Burned

Dear Burned,

This is a very timely question. Your concern was raised by many of the people I talked to at the Western Regional Convention. After many discussions, I believe I can answer your query. I don't remember who first proposed the explanation that I consider the most likely reason for your, my and many others' damage.

It is true that we didn't have any really hot days this summer. There were however, depending on where you live in Western Oregon, anywhere from 10 to 16 days in a row of 90°F or higher. During this time the temperatures at night were very high as well. Such a high continual temperature causes plants to transpire a lot of water. If the watering systems were not adjusted to provide more than the usual moisture the plant could possibly suffer leaf burn. Not from direct sun, but due to a lack of sufficient moisture in the plant.

This proposed explanation makes sense to me. I, and others I talked to actually had plants suffer leaf burn in almost total shade. This theory could account for such a strange occurrence.

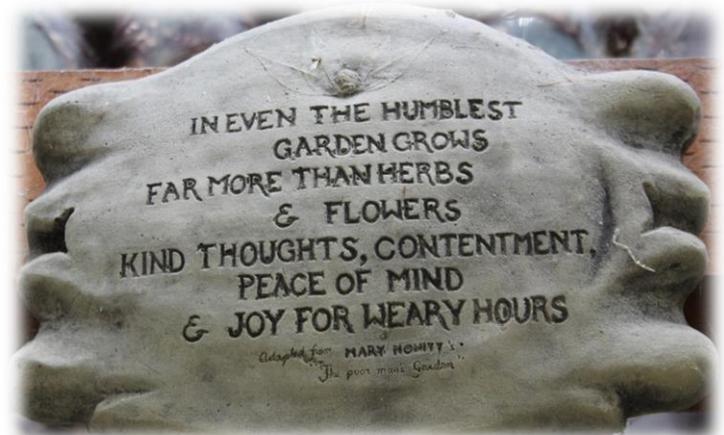
Dr. Rhody



We had such a good time at the Southwest cutting party and potluck at Ann Drakes home. It is such a lovely home and garden and Ann and her son Michael do such a great job of maintaining the yard that she and Tom started.



This is Frank Galsworthy. A late bloomer, and a stunning flower, but the root weevils LOVE it!



I love the sentiments in peoples gardens. It usually says a lot about the people who garden there.

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Our little Lucie Sorenson vireya is blooming like crazy in my shadehouse. It likes the cooler temps in there than in the greenhouse.



Another beautiful rhody that was blooming in Gallagher's park at the end of July



Here is our daughter Jacki holding our biggest tomato yet!



This is *R. auriculatum* in Hendricks park in mid July



This is a giant starfish cactus. (*Stapelia gigantea*) that is growing in my greenhouse. It does not bloom often, but this year it is blooming a LOT! It has had 3 blooms open already, and now it has 2 buds just about to pop. The largest of these two measured almost 16" from tip to tip. Too bad they smell so bad!



now and then,
it's good to pause in the pursuit of happiness,
and just be happy.



Can you see the two inchworms on this plant? It had 3 total.