

FEBRUARY 2025

MACROPHYLLUM

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

On the internet

- **Web site:** www.siuslawars.org
- Facebook Page :Siuslaw Chapter - Florence
American Rhododendron Society



UPCOMING CHAPTER EVENTS:

Meeting topic: Our meeting will be on February 18th. Steve Hootman Curator and intrepid plant hunter from the Rhododendron Species Foundation will be speaking on the newest introductions from eastern and southern China, and from Vietnam.

Board Meeting: Board Meeting at the home of Mike and Kathy Bones at 90379 Hwy.101 February 11th at 6:30

Chapter Meeting: The Siuslaw Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society will meet at the Presbyterian Community Church, 3669 Highway 101 in Florence, 6:30 for refreshments, 7:00 for the meeting.

Pre-Meeting Dinner: Our pre-meeting dinner will be at Ixtapa Mexican restaurant at 1015 Hwy 101 in Florence at 5 on February 18th, 2025. Contact Janet Von Tousaint at 925-285-3945 or email her at jfvonto@yahoo.com to reserve your place at the dinner table! Be there for great fun, great food, & great company.

Cookie team: Dan Green, Cheryl Prchal, and Sandi Hennig.



Other Westcoast Chapter Meetings and websites

EUGENE CHAPTER: February 19th- Steve Hootman -

One of the leading experts on Rhododendron Taxonomy and the curator and director of the Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden in Federal Way WA.

Website : 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. Social gathering at 6:30

Website : rhodies.org

WILLAMETTE CHAPTER : **CHAPTER MEETINGS:** Our current chapter meetings are held on the 2nd Wednesday of the month from September through May at a local Salem restaurant. Gather for dinner at 5:00pm, meeting begins at 6:30pm, and the speaker and program at 7:00pm. Our meetings will be in person unless otherwise stated. Arswillamette.org

NOYO CHAPTER: WWW.noyochapterars.org

EUREKA CHAPTER: eurekarhody.org

MT. ARROWSMITH RHODODENDRON SOCIETY: marsrhodos.ca

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



Just Say No to Aphids!

Aphids are one of our most damaging pests in the garden and greenhouse. Aphids pierce tender plant tissue and suck out the sap, causing leaves to curl and discolor. They also produce honeydew, which can lead to a black sooty mold. A heavy aphid infestation can stunt plant growth, causing wilting and eventual death. Aphids can also spread disease from one plant to another. We usually see green aphids, but they can also be yellow, black, brown, pink, or red, depending on the species and their stage of development.

When they can, aphids spend all spring and summer reproducing asexually on their summer host plants (giving live birth to hundreds of tiny clones of the adult). Some move to winter host plants in the fall, where they produce sexually and lay eggs that overwinter. Aphids are versatile little beasts!

Many adult aphids can fly, at least a short distance, and can also travel on a breeze, making them good candidates for sticky traps. Installing traps early in the season can help prevent the adults from going about their reproductive business. Sticky traps will also give you a clue that you have aphids, so you can seek them out and deal with them before they do much damage. The traps also snag whiteflies, another plant pest.

There are commercial sticky traps out there that work well in my greenhouse. I hang them close to the plants that seem to attract aphids and rarely have a problem anymore. Sandi read about a homemade aphid trap that's just a yellow plastic cup covered in vaseline and turned upside down and pinned or nailed to a stake



You can also "hire" natural predators (i.e. ladybugs or lacewings), but that requires allowing some aphids so that the predators have a reason to stick around and propagate. Sounds tricky to me.

If you get an aphid infestation in spite of your preventative efforts, soapy water remains the least toxic successful way to get rid of them. The soap destroys the aphid's waxy skin coating and causes death. Just be sure to discard any damaged foliage far away from any living plants.

Eradicating ants can also help prevent a widespread aphid infestation. Aphids are also called ant cows for a reason. Ants love that honeydew and will farm a

colony of aphids, moving them from one plant to another throughout the garden or greenhouse. When I see those little ants, I place a TERRO indoor ant bait in the area and that usually takes care of the problem. TERRO is basically just borax and sugar, so you can make your own ant traps if you like:

1/8 TBS borax

1/2 cup white sugar

1/4 cup hot water

Mix up the sugar and borax, then slowly add hot water to make a slurry

Put a spoonful on several plastic lids that ants can crawl into and place them around the area where ants have been seen traveling. Keep kids and pets away from these traps.

The best way to keep aphids from ruining your plants is to keep an eye out for the little buggers and get on them right away. Hopefully the sticky traps and ant baits will give you a head start.

Robin Koontz



Slug Prevention

1. Cut a hole in the side of a plastic container just below the top. Pour about two inches of beer - not too much or they climb back out. Secure the lid on top and bury so the hole is just at the ground surface. Some say to put the hole in the lid, but then rain or sprinkler water gets in and the slugs get out.

2. Grow plants in 6 mil black plastic mulch. When you use black plastic mulch, the soil will heat up and dry out. This will discourage slugs from hiding during the day as they tend to do. Plastic also keeps the weeds down and holds moisture. The fancy-pants word for this type of gardening is plasticulture. Oo-la-la!

3. Make protective rings for dahlias and other slug-prone plants using metal flashing. Cut it into narrow strips with metal shears, cut to the size of the circle you need, and fasten with a paper clip. Slugs do not like sharp edges and will not climb over. This method has worked for me for many years



I have a lecture on new introductions of rhododendron species in the last 40 years or so including many that are quite rare and even endangered in the wild (most from eastern and south China and Vietnam). I also discuss how many of these are actually turning out to be much better horticulturally for the average gardener (vs. the old stuff from the Himalaya and w China for example). A few of these are R. yuefengense, R. platypodum, R. faithiae and R. soilenhense.



Steve Hootman



Hello, Rhody fanatics.

With snow knocking at our doors, it's difficult to envision Spring being just around the corner. Looking out the window, seeing the daffodils and grape hyacinth in bloom, the tulip foliage popping up and the forsythia on the verge of bursting into a beautiful yellow waterfall, the early Rhododendrons like 'Seta' showing her dainty pink smile, hints of the impending rainbow soon to appear in our gardens. Time to fertilize!

Our February meeting is going to be quite interesting. Guest speaker, Steve Hootman of the Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden in Federal Way, Washington, will tell us about the ever-present possibility of finding new species. It's always exciting to see what is new in the Rhodie world, I'm not certain if Steve will bring some plants for sale, but he usually does. Don't miss this one.

The Home and Garden Show is at the end of the month, so, if you haven't signed up to have fun sharing your knowledge of Rhodies, please contact Steve Drochek. I promise it will be an enjoyable two hours of visiting and sharing and touting the benefits of joining the Rhody Society.

Soon we will have a schedule for our visits to various gardens in the area and to the South.

Of course, the April and May Shows are on the horizon, so we need to prepare for all the committees and volunteering necessary to put on such a great exhibit. Our shows are second to none in the Rhododendron world. And we have two! Most have only one.

We are also in need of a few of our members to take on the duties of publicity, web site liaison and Macrophyllum editor. Sandi Jensen has been doing it for a few years and needs a breather. It's a challenge getting articles every month and requires dedication. I know we have several talented members who would do a wonderful job. Please step up and help.

Florence has wonderful assets and among them is our wonderful garden club. They are a very active group with many varied speakers and excellent trips around the state, You should consider joining if you have a love of botanical knowledge.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me, Day Farrald at day817@outlook.com or call at 541-579-5544.

Ali Sarlak

I am always looking for interesting places in nature and public gardens to visit and share with our Rhodie members. At the same time I like to contribute something that is of interest to some of us.



On Christmas eve 2024, I booked a room for my wife Gloria and I at The Oregon Garden Resort to see Christmas lights. At the same time, we made a plan to hike to Sliver falls. The day was a light rainy day but as usual the sounds of beautiful waterfalls and the old growth trees covered with all shades of lichens got our attention. The rain did not spoil our hike. We hiked the upper rim trail and it was a much easier hike while still hearing the waterfalls.



But now back to the resorts, first we walked around resort and admired some of the all season landscape. There were at least 10 types of camellias in bloom This was Dec 24. A few other bushes that got my attention were the Beauty bushes with the lovely berries and Crab apple varieties with outstanding red berries as well as the winter blooming Oregon Grape.

I tell you, the resort and The Oregon Gardens are a treasure if you ask me. I'm always happy to visit a place like it. Generally, at the resorts, the Silver Christmas

Market gets going Nov 21 to Dec 31 with the exception of the 24th and 25th of December.

There are 1000,s of lights on display and it is a show place to experience during Christmas and the new year.

Ali Sarlak



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**



Hello friends,

Does anyone have any rare or heirloom fruit tree varieties? I'm gathering scion wood from home orchards in our area to trade and to increase local biodiversity in our region.

Scions are small tree branches which grew in the past year that are harvested and grafted to rootstock to make a new fruit tree. The Agrarian Sharing Network is currently collecting scion wood of rare and heritage fruit and but varieties to be shared and regionally redistributed in our propagation fairs in the spring.

I am happy to collect your donated scion cuttings. They will be added to others and distributed for free at propagation fairs around our region through the Agrarian Sharing Network.

I'm happy to show you how to take and store the cuttings or trade any scions you might want yourself if you're willing to donate a few scion wood cuttings. I'm also happy to give pruning tips if needed. Let me know if you have a tree of interest that our area could benefit from propagating! Thanks in advance.

Eric Oshel 541-991-9345 or erick_oshel@yahoo.com

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I am attaching the order blank for the club clothing so you can fill it out and bring it to the next meeting if you would like to. It looks like fine quality clothing and I will be ordering some.



Gardnersworld.com posts a monthly gardening checklist. Westher in the UK is very similar to western Oregon, so most of this applies. Here's the list of flowering plant chores for this month:

Cut down deciduous ornamental grasses left standing over winter, before fresh shoots appear

Divide large clumps of snowdrops and winter aconites after flowering and replant to start new colonies

Prune late-summer flowering clematis, cutting stems back to healthy buds about 30cm from the base

Divide congested clumps of herbaceous perennials and grasses to make vigorous new plants for free

Transplant deciduous shrubs growing in the wrong place, while they are dormant

Pot up containers with hardy spring bedding, such as primroses, wallflowers and forget-me-nots

Prune winter-blooming shrubs such as mahonia, winter jasmine and heathers, once they've finished flowering

Cut back wisteria side shoots to three buds from the base, to encourage abundant flowers in spring

Prune buddleja and elder to the base to keep these vigorous shrubs to a reasonable size

Trim back ivy, Virginia creeper and other climbers if they have outgrown their space, before birds start nesting

Cut away all the old foliage from epimediums with shears, before the spring flowers start to develop

Sprinkle slow-release fertilizer around the base of roses and other flowering shrubs



Addison at 4 and Silas at 2



SO YOU THINK YOU KNOW EVERYTHING?

1. A dime has 118 ridges around the edge.
2. A cat has 32 muscles in each ear.
3. A crocodile cannot stick out its tongue.
4. A dragonfly has a life span of 24 hours.
5. A goldfish has a memory span of three seconds. (That's it ! I'm a goldfish !)