

# MARCH 2025

## 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)
- Facebook Page :Siuslaw Chapter - Florence  
American Rhododendron Society



### UPCOMING CHAPTER EVENTS:

**Meeting topic:** Our meeting will be on March 18th . Chris Trautmann and his program on Hybridizing.

**Board Meeting:** Board Meeting March 11<sup>th</sup> 3pm at Mike and Kathy Bones home.

**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 ICM 1498 Bay St. in Florence at 5 on March 18<sup>th</sup> , 2025 . Contact Janet Von Tousaint at 925-285-3945 or email her at [jfvento@yahoo.com](mailto:jfvento@yahoo.com) to reserve your place at the dinner table! Be there for great fun, great food, & great company.

**Cookie team:** Enid Deibert, Jody Driver, and Janet Von Toussaint.



### Other Westcoast Chapter Meetings and websites

**EUGENE CHAPTER:** March 19th- Erine Wyckliffe from the Oregon Department of Agriculture, she will speak about Azalea Lace Bug and the Emerald Ash Borer. Spread, Symptoms, control and preventive measures.

**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. Social gathering at 6:30

Website : [rhodies.org](http://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](http://Arswillamette.org)

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

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

**MT. ARROWSMITH RHODODENDRON SOCIETY:** [marsrhodos.ca](http://marsrhodos.ca)

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



Growing Rhodies in the myriad climate such as Oregon coast.

I have been fascinated with the large leaved Rhodies at the special gardens in Yachats Oregon.

I knew the owners, Jim and Janice Gerdemann who were friends of David Goheen. ,who was a member of the Portland chapter . Goheens were two brothers who had their own house over at the coast in Yachats with so many special rhodies on the lot at the same time.

Little about Jim and Janice Gerdemann who left a legacy behind for all rhodie lovers to admire and enjoy. Jim was professor of pathology in University of Illinois and moved with his wife to the Oregon coast when they retired . Janice was a retired teacher.

I had a few occasions to see start of rhododendron gardens with our friend Goheen at the Gerdemann place . The Gerdemann place was a 3.5 acre lot and was planted over many years. The Gerdemann started many plants by way of seeds on their own. They got seeds of plants from all over the world : Africa,South America, China ,Australia and so many more countries . The place has micro climate and is protected by large, old ever green trees such as Stika Spruce, and Hemlocks 200 years old or more . Trees were protecting some of sensitive ornamental trees and rhodies from strong winds and cold breezes. That’s why now we can see so many large leaved rhodies that have become forests of their

own.

The property has changed owner ship since Gerdemann passed away ,of course their legacy and spirits will be with us plant lovers for a long time. There is small piece of property still open to the public sighting but 2/3 of the lot now is private and only can be visited by special appointment during flowering season which is May. I am going to include some incredible view of large leaved plants from my visit Feb 16/2025 and you can see for yourself why I am fascinated by them .

We are so lucky to have such a treasure within our sight. It gives us little taste of how the plants are in their own native habitats.

Ali Sarlak





It is with great sadness that I have to tell you that Ann Drake passed away recently at the age of 98. She was one of the nicest people that I have ever been privileged to know. Ann and her husband Tom joined the ARS in 1962 and her son Michael said he thought that they had joined the Siuslaw Chapter first and then formed the Southwest Chapter a few years later. They were both very active in the ARS, and traveled to New Zealand and the British Isles to visit many Rhododendron gardens. Michael said that Tom was an avid hybridizer, and I know that Ann was a grower of many kinds of plants as well as rhododendrons. In the last few years, after Tom passed away, and Michael came to stay with and care for her,

she would get him to bring her up to enter trusses in our show. She will definitely be missed! SJ



### 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



Here are a couple pictures of occidentale blooms in Azalea Park in Brookings Oregon on the Southern Oregon Coast . Beautiful place!



Your March gardening checklist: Credit to: <https://www.gardenersworld.com/>

## Flowers

- Pick off any developing seedheads on [daffodils](#) and other spring bulbs, but leave the foliage to die back naturally
- Finish [pruning roses](#) early in the month
- Cut [dogwoods](#), [willows](#), [cotinus](#) and [paulownia](#) right down to the base to promote vigorous new growth
- Tidy up [alpines](#) as they start to flower, removing dead foliage, then mulch with grit to keep the foliage off damp soil
- Plant faded forced bulbs out in the garden for blooms next year
- Plant [lilies](#) and other summer-flowering bulbs in pots and borders. Take a look at our [complete guide to planting bulbs](#).
- Feed ericaceous shrubs, such as [rhododendrons](#), [azaleas](#), [camellias](#) and [pieris](#), with an ericaceous fertilizer
- Tidy up borders, removing established and newly-germinating [weeds](#). Watch how [Monty weeds by hand](#).
- [Mulch](#) borders generously with garden compost
- Plant new [roses](#) and other [shrubs](#) and [climbers](#)
- Sow [wildflower seeds](#) in trays or modules, to produce plants for your own mini-meadow
- Check tender new shoots for [aphids](#), and remove before infestations get out of hand
- Continue [deadheading](#) spring flowers and any remaining winter bedding so they don't set seed
- [Fruit and veg](#)
- Avoid [carrot root fly](#) by sowing an early crop of [carrots](#) under cloches or fleece
- Sow [tomatoes](#), [chillies](#), [sweet peppers](#) and [aubergines](#) in pots indoors
- Plant [Jerusalem artichoke](#) tubers, at a depth of 10-15cm, spaced about 30cm apart
- Buy young [herbs to plant in containers](#) near your back door, for handy pickings
- Plant [onion and shallot](#) sets, spacing them 10-15cm apart
- Make the first outdoor sowings of hardy veg, such as [spinach](#), covering with cloches or [fleece](#) - find out how else to [protect young veg plants](#)
- Plant early [potatoes](#) in trenches on the veg plot, or in large tubs if space is limited. Find out more about the [different types of potato](#)
- [Sow parsnips](#) as soon as the soil starts to warm up, as they're slow to germinate and need a long growing season
- Plant a [fig tree](#) in a large container to restrict its roots, which encourages fruiting and limits its overall size
- Feed [cabbages](#) and other [brassicas](#) with nitrogen-rich fertilizer, such as pelleted chicken manure
- Plant bare-root [asparagus crowns](#) in well-drained soil or raised beds, in an open, sunny spot
- Start [hoeing](#) veg beds as soon as the weather starts to warm up, as weeds will germinate quickly
- Plant [strawberries in a hanging basket](#) to keep the fruits away from slugs
- Give [blackcurrant bushes](#) a high-nitrogen feed

Hello, Rhody (or, botanically, is it Rhodii?) enthusiasts.

Here we are with Spring just around the corner and the flower buds swelling in anticipation of sunny, warmer days.



It's time to feed!

The Home and Garden Show was a lot of fun. Several hundred people visited our booth and asked myriad questions of our expert volunteers. We may have even garnered a few new members while giving away a Rhody every hour. Great job Steve.

I am still trying to get a firm date for our trip down South. Will keep you posted.

Our speaker for the March meeting will be Chris Trautmann.

Hybridizing is his passion and Chris has been able produce some fabulous new plants suitable for our great Northwest climate. He also has a great talent for naming his progeny. His presentation will be a reprise of a program he did at the national conference in Vancouver, WA in 2022. Don't miss this one. It will be very educational and entertaining.

And don't forget about our two fabulous shows coming up. It takes a lot of commitment to have a successful show as large as ours. So, be prepared to throw your hat in the ring and put some gloves on.

Looking forward to seeing you at our monthly meeting. And bring a friend.

Any questions? Please call me, Day Farrald, at 541-579-5544 or email at [day817@outlook.com](mailto:day817@outlook.com)



I am hopefully retiring (once again) from doing the newsletter. Steve Drochek has kindly offered to give it a try, so after this issue, he will be doing it although since I have all the distribution addresses, I will probably still send them until he gets the membership emails into his computer. I've just been dealing with some medical issues that make it difficult to sit at the computer and get this done. Then as many of you know, we got the flu on top of everything else. So, it's definitely time for a break. Thank you all for the kind get well wishes that you sent to us!

We made it to Florence Saturday to fill our hour at the Home Show. Thank You all for your help, and Thank You Steve for being the chairman of the home show booth, and sending me this picture!

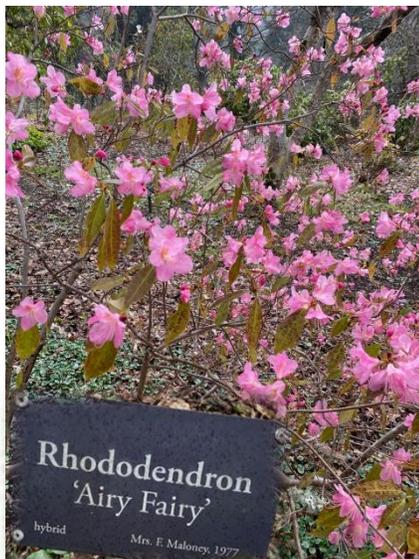


So, you think you know everything.....

1. A "jiffy" is an actual unit of time for 1/100th of a second.
2. A shark is the only fish that can blink with both eyes.
3. A snail can sleep for three years.
4. Al Capone's business card said he was a used furniture dealer.
5. All 50 states are listed across the top of the Lincoln Memorial on the back of the \$5 bill.
6. Almonds are a member of the peach family.
7. An ostrich's eye is bigger than its brain.
8. Babies are born without kneecaps. They don't appear until the child reaches 2 to 6 years of age.
9. Butterflies taste with their feet.
10. Cats have over one hundred vocal sounds. Dogs only have about 10.

I would like to call this page a walk in the park, but given how poorly I've been walking, perhaps we should call it a limp around the park. We stopped by Hendricks Park a couple times in the past 2 weeks, and I limped around the upper loop and took a few pictures of the early bloomers. Rireii was just finishing blooming, so I didn't bother, but the little bushes of 'Airy Fairy' were looking very good. I didn't include the hellebores but they were looking very good, but only if you're 5" tall. The sarcococca fills the air with sweetness and the bees were loving some short blue bloomers that I chose to not take a picture of because I didn't want to disturb them! I love the snowdrops. These are only 6-8" tall, but very showy. The ones I have are very tall and floppy. The Pieris, aka Andromeda in the parking lot is in full bloom right now, but I'm puzzled as to why the bees are not visiting them.

The 'Noyo Dream' was just beginning to open, and of the two 'edgeworthia chrysantha' one is in full bloom and the second one is just beginning. It is definitely a wonderful time to get your gardening juices flowing! SJ



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Please check out the attachments that I am including along with the newsletter. One is the order sheet for the clothing and the other two are the advertisement for the Nova Scotia convention in June, and last but not least is the advertisement for the ASN propagation fair.



r. Whirlaway



r. Black Magic



IDK



r. A Bedford



Silas opening his birthday presents



Addison enjoying her brothers birthday cake



Another IDK