

APRIL 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 our yearly Auction, April 15<sup>th</sup> and Mike Bones will be the auctioneer. Very important that you get there by 6:00 when the auction begins.

**Board Meeting:** Board Meeting at the home of Mike and Kathy Bones at 90379 Hwy.101 April 8<sup>th</sup> at 3:00.

**Chapter Meeting:** The Siuslaw Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society will meet at the Presbyterian Community Church, 3669 Highway 101 in Florence, 5:30 for refreshments, 6:00 for the meeting.

**Note: The Meeting is one hour earlier this month to allow plenty of time for the auction.**

**Pre-Meeting Dinner:** Our pre-meeting dinner will be at the food court at Three Rivers Casino. We have the new meeting room next to the food court reserved at 4:00 on April 15<sup>th</sup>. Please contact Janet Von Tousaint at 925-285-3945 or email her at [jfvonto@yahoo.com](mailto:jfvonto@yahoo.com) to reserve your place at the dinner table! Be there for great fun, great food, & great company.

**Cookie team, April 15<sup>th</sup>:** Sandi Henning, Lois Bravo, Jenny Green, and Susan Walker.



### Other Westcoast Chapter Meetings and websites

**EUGENE CHAPTER:** April 16<sup>th</sup> Mike Stewart talks about Deciduous Azaleas.

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:** 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

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

**NOYO CHAPTER:** [www.rhodondrons-mendocino.org](http://www.rhodondrons-mendocino.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.

**Presidents Message:** Hello, Rhody enthusiasts.

Well, it happened. Spring done sprung. What a beautiful time of year. All over town yards are coming to life with beautiful flowers of every description. To quote Emerson: "Earth laughs in flowers".

The Meeting this month will be filled with horticultural wonders, exploding in rainbows of color in unimaginable combinations. This is your opportunity to acquire some extraordinary plants that may not be available at our local nurseries at bargain prices. It also contributes to the continued success of our Chapter. Remember the meeting STARTS at 6pm with auctioneer Mike Bones soliciting the bids.

The following week is our fantastic Early Rhododendron Show at the Florence Events Center. It will be held a little later than usual, which should allow for a larger show than usual. Normally, there are about 500 entries in this show, but we are hoping for more this year. So, be prepared to bring as many trusses as possible to make this the best early show ever. Note: auto-correct suggested 'trusses' be changed to 'pairs of trousers'. Artificial Intelligence is on its way! Don't forget; bring your trusses in on Friday at 5pm, April 25<sup>th</sup>.

On Thursday April 24<sup>th</sup> we will be setting up the display racks. Plan to meet at the Events Center at about 4:30 with your handy 3/8 and 7/16 sockets. We will also get the tables positioned and possibly set up. So, put your hard hat on and meet us at the FEC.

On to the next week! We are planning to take a trip down South to visit the garden of Bennett and Dace in Langlois. They have been working for several years developing a showplace for all to enjoy. Also, on this trip, we would like to stop at the Dragonfly Nursery. It is unique and offers a wide variety of garden delights. It is planned for Friday, May 9<sup>th</sup>, because Dragonfly has special events on the weekend and it is very crowded. They requested we avoid Saturday and Sunday. If you would like to caravan down there please let me know so we can set up a time and place to meet. Please invite your friends to our meetings. They are always fun and educational. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to call me. **541-579-5544 or day817@outlook.com**

## **A Visit to Hendrick's Park**

**by Ali Sarlak**

I decided the best way to spend my time while I am cutting back on work is to connect with nature in solitary places such as parks and wilderness, to get away from all the political noise.

This time I drove to Eugene to view Hendrick's park. A little information about the park: it's approximately 80 acres, and is divided in three sections: 1) 15 acres for Rhododendrons, 2) 5 acres for native plants, and 3) the rest covered with evergreens and oak trees. There are also plenty of trails for hiking around the park. The park has been around for a century and has been managed by different care-takers. Emily Aune is currently the head gardener and she does a very good job at keeping the park well maintained. It looks as if the Lace bug issue on the Rhododendrons and Azaleas is under control. I visited at the end February and saw some early plants in bloom; Hellebores of all kinds, special varieties of witch hazel and early booming rhododendrons such as Christmas Cheer and R.Seta.

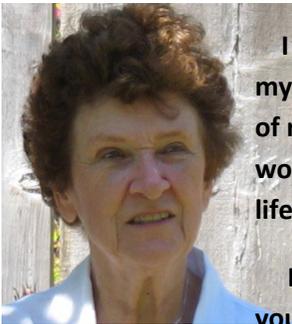
One section got my attention in particular: the plot planted in memory of our dear departed friend, Harold Greer. We all appreciate Harold for his wealth of knowledge, photographs and books on rhododendrons.

There is a group called the **Friends of Hendrick's Park** that meets weekly and helps out with required work. They also hold fundraising events to help defray costs of maintaining the park.

My trip was delightful and I came home with about 97 new photos.



## **In Memory of Ann Drake:**



I am in the autumn decades of my life and I find I have the honor of reflecting on the lives of wonderful persons I have shared life experiences.

I would like to reminisce with you about my friend, Ann Drake, who passed away at age 98 on January 28, 2025. I met Ann in 1979 when my assigned seat was next to hers at the annual Beta Sigma Phi Founder's Day Banquet. She had many clever observations regarding the snooty older sisters at the Banquet. Ann was truly like a big sister to me, even though she was the same age as my mother.

We discovered our mutual interest in azaleas and rhododendrons over the opening evening beverages, and by the time we finished dessert, I had agreed to attend the next Rhododendron Society meeting.

Ann and her husband, Tom, were great hosts. Every May they invited friends and rhododendron enthusiasts to their gardens for a tour. In May 1982, my second son, Michael, decided to arrive a few days early to begin his life journey on earth causing me to miss the annual tour of the gardens.

I was quite distraught sitting on the bed in the maternity ward, sure that Ann would never invite me again for being a NO SHOW after sending a yes RSVP. The doctor was quite dismayed with my tears over missing the event and offered to stop at the Drake's on his way home. The doctor reported back that the blooms were magnificent and in color combinations he had not seen, the champagne was chilled to perfection for sipping and strolling, the hors d'oeuvres were outstanding, and oh by the way, Ann says she will call next week to arrange your private tour. You guessed it, I threw my pillow at the doctor as he escaped through the door.

Well, Ann and Tom did call. They came to see me and my rhododendrons! Oh, yes, there was a new baby, a three-year old and my husband to visit with.

Ann was quite typical for a woman of her era. She was a background person. She knew where, when and from whom all of the plants were purchased. She kept receipts and made notes. Ann knew the Latin names, the hybrids lineage and often who did the hybridizing. Ann and her husband, Tom, traveled the Pacific Northwest and countries beyond our borders to see rhododendron gardens and parks. She kept track of the visits with notes about the weather, time of the year, new blooms and companion garden plants. Ann was organized, methodical, a skilled minute taker, knew which publications to send announcements regarding truss shows and wrote a column for the Southwestern Oregon Chapter's newsletter called "Ann's Corner". The May 2009 ARS Journal printed one of her articles titled "Volunteers at Truss Shows and Plant Sales". Ann was adept at procuring trophy items and sending heartfelt thank you notes to the donors.

One of my fondest memories is Ann winning Best of Show at the 2010 Southwestern Oregon Chapter Truss and Plant Show. The truss came from a plant she selected. The plant was a new hybrid and to be part of the infamous PLANT GAME. The Siuslaw and Southwestern Oregon Chapters had gathered at the Drakes home. I saw Ann admiring the plant and speaking with the hybridizer who brought the plant. The plant disappeared well before the game started and the hybridizer had a large plate of her homemade gooey brownies! The winning truss: SUPER DOG!

Ann had the skill and grace to pave the way for those of us who follow.

Candy Baumer



## 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

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