

# MAY 2025 MACROPHYLLUM

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



On the World Wide Web:

Chapter Website: [Siuslaw Chapter ARS](#)

Chapter Facebook Page: [Siuslaw Chapter - Florence - ARS](#)

## 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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## Upcoming Chapter Events

**Board Meeting:** Will meet at Mike and Kathy Bones house at 90379 Hwy.101 May 13<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, on May 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm for refreshments, 7:00pm for the meeting.

**Pre-Meeting Dinner:** Our pre-meeting dinner will be May 20<sup>th</sup> at Clawson's Wheelhouse (820 US-101) at 5:00pm. Please contact Janet Von Toussaint 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.

**Meeting topic:** Our meeting on May 20<sup>th</sup> will be a review of the Rhody show and an introduction to Bonsai taught by Mike Bones.

**Cookie Team:** Thank you to everyone who brought snacks to the Early Show.

The following people have volunteered for the following days.

Saturday May 17<sup>th</sup> : Enid Deibert, Sandi Jensen, Linda Cochran, Susan Walker

Sunday May 18<sup>th</sup> : Deb Price, Steve Drochek

Meeting May 20<sup>th</sup> : Rosemary Rebello, Enid Deibert

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



What a great show! Thank you everyone for putting so much effort into making the Early Show such a phenomenal success. I was concerned that the number of entries might be low because of the lack of rain. Usually, we have close to 400 trusses and sprays in April. A total of 508 entries were presented this year with many unusual varieties. Also, there were 25 bonsai and 14 bud exhibits.

As in previous years, the race for the Sweepstakes Trophy was between Liz Hultin and Mike Bones: Mike won by 8 points. Pretty close. The Best in show was brought home by the Prchals with a spray of r. Benhallii. Looks like a blueberry flower. Mike won the Best Bonsai and Best Bud. Below is a list of the points for

each exhibitor.

Now, don't forget we get to repeat this on the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>. I know you will be rested enough to make the May Show the best. Side note: our Shows are in the top echelon of Rhododendron Shows in the Country.

Remember to water frequently. We have had an extended drought this Spring. Your babies may bloom, but their longevity will be diminished if the moisture level is low. Also, feed those guys. Fertilize! And please enter as many trusses as possible. Even if they aren't the blue-ribbon winners you hoped for, they add to the massive color display. The more the better. Ask a neighbor to bring some in.

Don't forget the journey to Hinsdale Gardens in Reedsport and Richard Flavell's garden on May 10<sup>th</sup> We will meet at the Elks parking lot at 9:30. We will park at Dean Creek Elk Viewing Area just west of the gardens on highway 38. We will ride shuttles to the garden from there.

- Day Farrald

**From the Editor:** Hi everyone, I'm working on a new format mainly because it's easier to move things around when doing the newsletter. You will get two newsletters this month, one from me and the identical same one from Sandi. If you do not get the one from me please check your spam folder and change your email settings to accept the following email: [steve.drochek3@gmail.com](mailto:steve.drochek3@gmail.com).

- Steve Drochek

## **Serenity Gardens**

I have been contributing articles about various gardens that I visited and loved over the years and now I'd like to share something about my own gardens.

They are about half an acre and are very flat. In spots it's not too far away from the river. Still, I have not found soil draining as fast as I expected it to. Over the years, I piled up many loads of wood chips and compost to add more drainage and create more aeration in the soil .

In my gardens, I built many stone walls for use as retaining flower beds, and stones are also part of my landscape for the look, beauty and replacement of plants.

In the past we had several rhododendron growers and hybridizers in our area, Corvallis. We had rhododendron chapters and shows once a year. I became a member and was president of the chapter and I was lucky to get to know some folks in the club and bought some of their plants occasionally, and planted them in our gardens . Now some of our plants as high as 30 feet or so. Plants like 'Lamplighter', 'Cadis', 'Taurus', 'Sir-Charles Lemon', 'Loderi King-George', 'Cynthia', 'Lem's-Cameo' and many species and hybrids. Recently, I counted around 170 rhododendron varieties on my property.

Beside rhododendrons there are other plants of interest in my gardens: Trees; Dawn red wood (Metasequia), Cryptomeria japonica and Parrotia persica to mention just a few. There are alpine plant sections in my gardens and a section with varieties of roses, including collections of David Austin roses.

I am also keeping a nice open lawn space for our summer socializing and a small space for vegetables. I call our open space an outdoor living room. Gardening has given me a spiritual feeling and has created a healthy life style. I personally love to walk around the yard and notice surprising colors, textures, fragrances, and beauty. For me, the love of nature gives me purpose for living. All plants are interesting and have places of use if you know where and how.

Finally, I love rhododendrons for these reasons: they are evergreen and come with different textures, colors, heights, and shapes. They can be used as hedge, or street trees, which I've seen in New-Zealand. They can be grown containers on the patio and require less maintenance. I consider rhododendrons number one among plants for our landscaping in the pacific north west and I frequently recommend them.

Please go to the [Siuslaw Chaper - ARS website to see the pictures of my gardens](#)

Happy spring,  
- Ali Sarlak

## **Garden Tour:**

On Friday, May 2nd, a group of 10 Rhody Club club members took a garden tour road trip.

First stop: Coos Bay, to visit the perfectly manicured garden of Dennis Herrick and Theresa Farina. Everything was bursting with blooms, cascading over the front garden wall. In the back, they've done so much work building rock gardens with stones found on the property! Dennis had planted the beautiful purple Rhody he won at the early show raffle, lucky guy! Thanks for your hospitality, Dennis and Theresa!

We headed out for Langlois, where we were warmly welcomed by Bennett and Dace Gregory. Two years ago they started with a rocky hillside and dilapidated out buildings. Using materials from the three rock quarries on the property, they have now created an oasis of gardens, greenhouses, a pond and waterfall, and an outdoor gathering space/Zen greenhouse, fed by natural springs. We were treated to a tour of just a fraction of their 300 acres, and that 1 acre or so is where most of their garden is maintained around the house. They get some help from a hired hand, but for the most part, they tend the gardens personally. We saw wild iris, rows of rhododendrons, beds of dahlias, begonias, roses, giant philodendron, tons of tomatoes, dill, squash, borage and Japanese maples. We were treated to Bennett and Dace's warm hospitality in their new flow-thru greenhouse, where beautiful plates of cheese puffs, cookies and eclairs awaited. We tasted a batch of Dace's delicious hibiscus orange tea.

The views from their place on the mountain were nothing short of breathtaking! Rolling green forests down to a ephemeral pond, and on to the ocean far below. Dace, (pronounced Dahtzy) is from Latvia and plays professional classical cello. Inside, we saw her music room that has a picturesque garden view. Stunning orchids and lilies grace their breakfast nook, with sweeping views of their piece

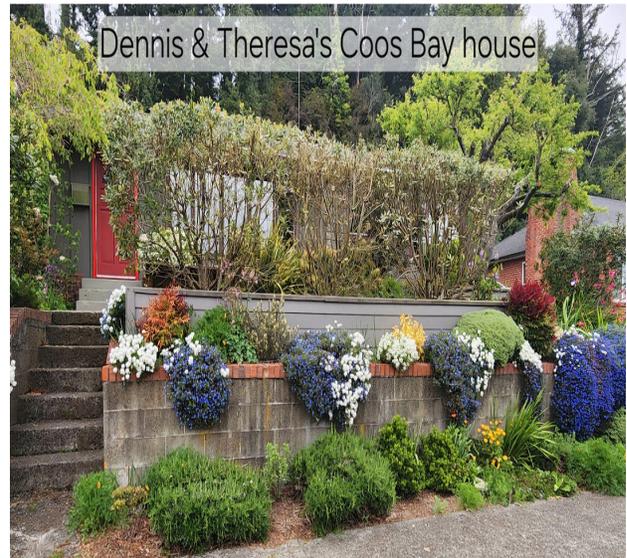
of heaven. Bennett is from Everywhere; had a tree farm in Texas, and is a painter and sculptor. Together, they have built an idyllic setting. Thanks so much for hosting us! We made two beautiful new friends.

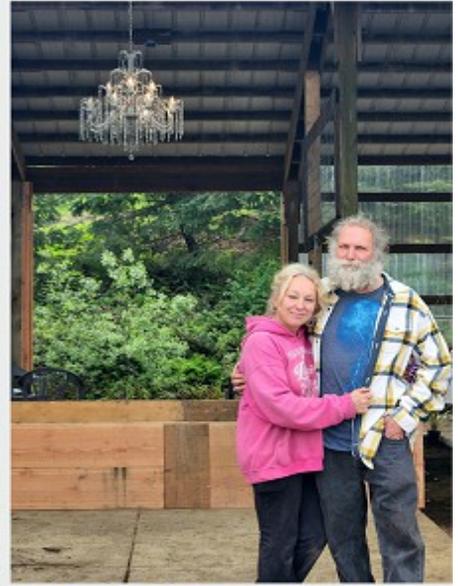
Our next stop was just down the road at Dragonfly Nursery. What a fun place! Everything from basil to pottery to rhodies and tomatoes and yard art and everything in-between! Plants are beautifully healthy. The nursery is clean and well organized with a helpful, friendly staff. A sweet Bluebell rhody found its way into our car, along with basil and rainbow Swiss chard!

Our last stop was in Old Town Bandon, where six of us gathered for pizza and conversation. The weather cooperated and drizzled only when we were snugly tucked into the car. A wonderful day for gardening, scenery, scents, colors and friendship.

Thank you to our Club President, Day Farrald, for arranging this tour.

- Janet Von Toussaint





**Pictures from Bennett and Dace's Place**



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**Early Show & Plant Sale**

## Points for the early show

### April Show 2025

Sorted by Name		Sorted by Points	
Name	Total Pts.	Name	Total Pts.
Baumer	132	Bones	246
Beatty	3	Hultin	238
Bones	246	Prchal	178
Braley	47	Baumer	132
Childs, K	5	Trautmann	80
Cochran	22	Jensen	50
Connely, Joan	2	Braley	47
Dalbeck	19	Farrald	33
Deibert	2	Cochran	22
Driver	13	Kelly	21
Drochek	6	Dalbeck	19
Farrald	33	Unknown	16
Garcia	2	Driver	13
Goss	5	Hennig	13
Guettler	5	Walker	13
Henderson	3	Sorensen	10
Hennig	13	Weatherwax	10
Horner	2	Maurtino	8
Hultin	238	Selig, Nahde	8
Jensen	50	Drochek	6
Kelly	21	Santiago	6
Kroenert	3	Childs, K	5
Larson	3	Goss	5
Maurtino	8	Guettler	5
Payne	5	Payne	5
Prchal	178	Beatty	3
Santiago	6	Henderson	3
Selig, Nahde	8	Kroenert	3
Sorensen	10	Larson	3
Trautmann	80	Vanmer	3
Unknown	16	Connely, Joan	2
Vanmer	3	Deibert	2
Venny's Café	2	Garcia	2
Walker	13	Horner	2
Weatherwax	10	Venny's Café	2

**Totals 1214**



**April Auction Meeting**

## Other Upcoming Events:

Florence Garden Club plant sale, May 10<sup>th</sup> , Florence Senior Center, 9am to 4pm.

Portland Chapter: The Mother's Day Show and Plant Sale Saturday, May 10-Sunday, May 11<sup>th</sup> at Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden.

Portland Chapter: Summer Solstice Celebration potluck, June 28, noon to 3pm at Mike Stewart's Nursery property, 42125 SE Kleinsmith Rd. Sandy OR 97055

Oregon Coast  
Music Festival

# Orchestra I – The Melting Pot

July 22 @ 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm  
972 Ingersoll Ave, Coos Bay, OR



Marshfield Auditorium, Tues. July 22 @ 7 pm.  
\$25 (\$20) – [Click here to purchase.](#)

Martin Majkut Conductor & Music Director

Mazzoli: Sinfonia

Dvořák: Cello Concerto.  
Dace Gregory, cello

—

Bernstein: West Side Story: Symphonic Dances

[oregoncoastmusic.org](http://oregoncoastmusic.org)

## Home Depot Releases New Bluetooth Cordless Hose



**A new must-have garden hose!**

## **Other Westcoast Chapter Meetings and Websites**

**EUGENE CHAPTER:** Meetings October-May, 3rd Wednesday of the month 6:30pm, The Springs at Greer Gardens 282 Goodpasture Island Road, Eugene OR. In the Chapel Room

**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:**

**Website:** [www.rhodondrons-mendocino.org](http://www.rhodondrons-mendocino.org)

**EUREKA CHAPTER:**

**Website:** [eurekarhody.org](http://eurekarhody.org)

**MT. ARROWSMITH RHODODENDRON SOCIETY:**

**Website:** [marsrhodos.ca](http://marsrhodos.ca)

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