

# September 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

### Chapter Officers:

**President:** Mike Bones - 2028  
541-997-3082  
[rhodies@charter.net](mailto:rhodies@charter.net)

**Vice-President:** Cheryl Prchal - 2028  
541-902-7637  
[rhodyholic@msn.com](mailto:rhodyholic@msn.com)

**Secretary:** Kathy Bones - 2026  
541-997-3082  
[kathybones@charter.net](mailto:kathybones@charter.net)

**Treasurer:** Linda Farrald - 2026  
541-305-1022  
[lfarrald@hotmail.com](mailto:lfarrald@hotmail.com)

### Board Members:

**Past President:** Day Farrald  
541-579-5544  
[day817@outlook.com](mailto:day817@outlook.com)

**Director:** Ken Deibert - 2026  
530-919-0941  
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**Director:** Steve Drochek - 2027  
814-937-2930  
[sdrochek@yahoo.com](mailto:sdrochek@yahoo.com)

**Director:** Sandi Jensen - 2028  
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### Committee Members

**Sunshine:**  
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**Publicity:**  
Day Farrald  
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**Dinner & Cookie coordinator:**  
Janet Von Toussaint  
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**Newsletter Editor:**  
Steve Drochek  
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## What's Happening

**Board Meeting:** Will meet at Mike & Kathy Bones' house at 90379 Hwy.101 Sept. 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm.

**Chapter Meetings:** The Siuslaw Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society will meet at the Presbyterian Community Church, 3669 Highway 101 in Florence, on the third Tuesday of every month from September through May (except as noted) at 6:30pm for refreshments, 7:00pm for the meeting.

**Pre-Meeting Dinner:** Our pre-meeting dinner will be Sept. 16<sup>th</sup> at ICM (1498 Bay St.) 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 September 16<sup>th</sup> will be a review of Rhody 101. We do it yearly as we have new members and lots of guests at the first meeting of the season. It's always an interesting one with our own chapter members doing the presentations. What a great way to learn about Rhododendrons, bring questions and concerns. Please don't be afraid to ask questions!

**Cookie Team:** The following people have graciously volunteered to bring cookies to the Sept. 16<sup>th</sup> meeting: Sandi Hennig, Paul Driver, and Enid Deibert. Thanks so much!

~ Janet Von Toussaint Please call 925-285-3945 if your schedule has changed

**Presidents Message:** Welcome back after a very dry summer for our Rhododendrons. Plants growing in our sandy soil of Florence always need more watering than in other areas. I always say that a little fertilizer each month helps keep our plants healthier. This time of year, the old leaves can turn yellow/orange prior to them falling off. Yes, its normal - as the stored food in the leaf has been used up, that old leaf will fall to the ground and make good compost around the plants. I say, "Why rake up those composting leaves, then add bark?". Let the leaves break down and give extra nourishment to the plants.

Thank you for electing me as your new president for the next two years, along with Cheryl Prchal as our new VP, and Sandy Jensen as our new Director on the board. A big thanks goes out to our past President, Day Farrald and past VP Bill Hennig for all of the work that they did. I am sure that we have not seen the last of either of them.

I'm looking forward to seeing all of you. Be sure to bring a guest to our meetings. Bring a friend, and if they join, you will both receive extra tickets for our plant raffle!

~ Mike Bones, President, Siuslaw Chapter ARS

**Vice Presidents Message:** I wanted to thank you for electing me to be your Vice-President for the next two years. I hope I can do what will enable the chapter to continue to be the fabulous group we are.

In order to do that, I am asking you to let me know of anything you would like to suggest the chapter do in order to enhance your membership. Also, please feel free to address any issues you have.

While I'm at it, I want to thank all the wonderful members that have stepped forward for all the jobs it takes to make us a success...from volunteering when needed, providing refreshments, greeting our visitors at meetings and all the hard work that is needed at the flower shows...from setup to take down, it really takes an army.

Please feel free to contact me anytime at [rhodyholic@msn.com](mailto:rhodyholic@msn.com) or call 541-902-7637.

Thank you again,

~ Cheryl Prchal

### **Upcoming Meeting Events:**

October 21 - Mike Stewart, Past ARS President, will speak on deciduous Azaleas from the east coast.  
November 18 - Atsuko Gibson, lead propagator from the Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden on the Four Seasons at the RSBG.

December 7 - Christmas Potluck and Gift exchange – Oddfellows Park Rec Room

**Yearly Dues:** After ten years, the American Rhododendron Society has had to raise the cost of the dues to help keep up with the growing costs for running a Society. The largest expense is the cost of the printed Journal. You can continue getting the printed Journal with membership of \$50, or you can get the Journal on line for a membership of \$40. A Membership to the Society also makes a great gift. Remember - a Membership is for a couple. This is such a great deal!

Please print and fill out the attached Membership Renewal form and bring cash or check to the next meeting, or mail it to our Treasurer - Linda Farrald at the address on the membership form. Make checks payable to: **Siuslaw American Rhododendron Society.**

### **Siuslaw ARS Cookbook:**

Hello Siuslaw ARS Members

I would like to create a cookbook of all our favorite recipes. If you would like to send me any of your recipes, I will add them to the book. I will make sure it includes Day's famous Gumbo!

You can give it to me in any format. Scribbled on a piece of paper, a note card or even a picture from a cookbook.

I think it would make it a little more interesting if you added a note about the recipe. Like what time of year you make it, or the person(s) you make it for. What memories it brings, anything you want. Ethnic food from your heritage would be a fantastic addition.

I would like to have this compiled for the ARS Christmas party, so the sooner you get me your recipes the better.

You can email it to me at: [lfarrald53@hotmail.com](mailto:lfarrald53@hotmail.com)

Or mail it to: ARS

P.O. Box 1701  
Florence, OR 97439

You can even bring it to our Sept. 16<sup>th</sup> meeting.

If you have any questions, please call me at: 541-305-1022

Thanks,

~ Linda Farrald

### **Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden:**

As a member of the ARS you are able to tour the beautiful Botanical garden in Federal Way, Washington, for free. Please contact Linda Farrald to obtain your personalized pass for entry. Check out their website for details and hours of the [Botanical Gardens](#).

**From the Editor:** Hi everyone! If you know of someone not getting the newsletter, please ask them to make sure they check their spam folder and change the email settings to accept emails from the following address: [siuslawars.news@gmail.com](mailto:siuslawars.news@gmail.com). If that doesn't work, please let me know or have them send an email to me, that way I get their correct email address.

If you have any articles that you like to submit, please don't hesitate to send those to me. I will be updating our website, so please send any suggestions or changes you would like to see.

Thanks,

~ Steve Drochek

## The Oregon Garden in Silverton, OR

If you are like me and love gardens and are looking for inspiration, this garden is for you. Oregon Garden is about 80 acres, including the garden itself and a piece of land adjoining it for potential expansion.

The Oregon Garden is made up of 20 or more themed gardens - Water features, Conifers, Children's, Pet-Friendly, Fire-Resistant, Maples, Rare, Fruit, Herbs, Meditation, Rose Gardens and many more.

There is an indoor tropical green house. The garden and roof garden feature drought-resistant plants. I saw a very colorful fruit tree and learned it is called Goji berry. I had always heard of it but had never seen it before. This was next to other rare fruit trees such as Persimmon, Quince, and Pomegranate trees.

The Oregon Garden visit inspired me to visualize the possibilities of my own place in the way of design and choice of plants, and gives me a way to spend my day totally stress free from the turmoil in today's life.

Another service offered in the garden is a shuttle, with an expert guide, to allow the disabled to enjoy the garden. There is a lovely spacious building in the garden available to rent for large events. Also a coffee shop, gift shop and some plants for sale.

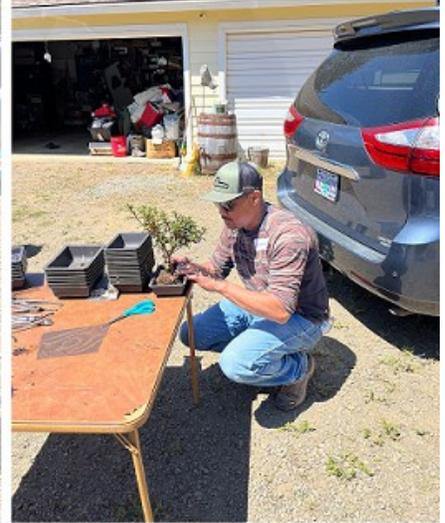
I personally love these gardens all year round and have been visiting them in the different seasons. It has always been a place of beauty. I should not forget to mention on the site is the beautiful resort, The Moon Stone Hotel, where you can dine and stay. I tried it myself and I recommend it. It has restaurant, and if you stay overnight, your admission is free to the garden.

If you have not visited the garden, you owe it to yourself and you'll be glad you did.

~ Ali Sarlak



**Summer Fun:** During our summer break from meetings, Mike Bones held two Bonsai (aka Bones-ai) classes at his nursery for the enthusiasts who had signed up. He provided us with a peek at his own spectacular Bonsai specimens, in several green houses, and a through overview. He offered a wide variety of plants to choose from. Mike's detailed instructions, entertainment, and all the supplies to create our own Bonsai made for a wonderful day! He sent us home with a creation to treasure for years to come (hopefully), and special memories of meeting new friends and spending the afternoon together. Everyone enjoyed the sun and fun of getting our hands dirty and hacking the roots off of our plants! We learned so much. Thanks, Mike!  
~ Janet Von Toussaint



**More Summer Fun:** Ron Prchal, Day Farrald, Steve Price, and Ross Kroenert deserve a big thank you for renewing the Rhody racks with a fresh coat of paint this summer. The racks will be looking like new for the early show in April. Thank you guys for your hard work!



**Save the Date:**

*American Rhododendron Society*  
*2026 Spring Convention*  
*Vancouver Island, British Columbia*  
**Rhododendrons & Companions**  
**in a Changing Climate**  
**April 21 - 26, 2026**

**Highlights:**

- Garden tours in Qualicum Beach, Parksville, Nanaimo
- Pre-and post-tours of public and private gardens in Victoria and the Cowichan Valley
- Speakers, plant sales, banquet in Qualicum Beach
- Partnering with the Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden: Annual Meeting and Speakers from RSBG

*Organized by the ARS Chapters*  
*on Vancouver Island, British Columbia*

*More information coming soon!*

## **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)**