

# October 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  
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**Treasurer:** Linda Farrald - 2026  
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### Board Members:

**Past President:** Day Farrald  
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## **What's Happening**

**Board Meeting:** Will meet at Mike & Kathy Bones' house at 90379 Hwy.101 Oct. 14<sup>th</sup> at 2:00pm.

**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 Oct. 21<sup>st</sup> at Best Thai Cuisine (1565 9th St.) at 5:00pm. Please contact Janet Von Toussaint at 925-285-3945 or email her at [jfvento@yahoo.com](mailto:jfvento@yahoo.com) to reserve your place at the dinner table. Because of their extensive menu it is suggested you go on-line and try to decide on your meal before arriving. Be there for great fun, great food, & great company!

**Next Meeting topic:** Our meeting on October 21<sup>st</sup> will be a presentation by Mike Stewart on Eastern Native Azaleas. Mike Stewart is a well-known rhododendron expert, former president of the American Rhododendron Society (ARS), and a retired owner of Dover Nursery in Sandy, Oregon, with his wife Maria. He is a popular speaker and educator on rhododendrons and also serves as the Vice President of the Rhododendron Species Foundation.

**Cookie Team:** The following people have graciously volunteered to bring cookies to the Oct. 21<sup>st</sup> meeting: Lois Bravo, Jody Driver and Jenny Green. Thanks so much!  
~ Janet Von Toussaint Please call 925-285-3945 if your schedule has changed

**Presidents Message:** Welcome to the Fall of 2025. Fall is my favorite time of year. The weather is still nice, the ground is warm, nice overdue rain, everything that the plants want and need. Planting time.

Before the bad weather hits, go outside and clean up your garden, cut out those dead limbs, fertilize and get those winter weeds as they come up. A little bit of prepping now will save you hours in the future.

We have some great meetings coming up this year - bring a friend to one of those meetings! The Siuslaw Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society is a fun group. We all have different levels of knowledge when it comes to rhododendrons and azaleas, so if you have a question, please ask! Get involved, even slightly. Sign up for bringing cookies to a meeting or to one of our flower shows. Learn how to propagate, even if it's just for your own experience. It is a good feeling to be able to bring in a plant to our raffle with the knowledge that you started that plant. Actually taking the cutting, getting roots to grow, creating a whole new plant. It's really fun. I still remember my first cuttings. Do some of the easier plants to root for your first time. You could give them to your family or neighbors.

Come to the meetings, meet new people. Some of us go out to dinner before the monthly meeting. Make your reservation with our dinner coordinator, Janet.

Our October meeting will be an interesting one. Mike Stewart, the past President of the American Rhododendron Society, has an outstanding program on the eastern native azaleas. He has trekked those areas where they grow and will be bringing the colorful hillsides to us.

Looking forward to seeing you on Tuesday, Oct. 21st.

~ Mike Bones, President.

### **Upcoming Meeting Events:**

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:** Remember dues are now due. 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. 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.**



**In Memory of our dear friend:** Ronald Anthony Caputo, 84, of Florence, Oregon, passed away on September 2, 2025.

Born on March 2, 1941, in Portland, Oregon, Ron was the second of six children born to Louis and Lola (Hunt) Caputo. He grew up in Portland and graduated from Central Catholic High School in 1959.

After high school, Ron enlisted in the United States Marine Corps Reserve.

In 1963, Ron met Judy Brookins, and the two were married in 1964. They first made their home in Garden Home, before moving to Beaverton, Oregon. Ron and Judy had four children.

Ron co-founded Beaverton Lighting with his brother Jerry and later worked as an electrician in Alaska.

In 1993, Ron and Judy moved to Florence, where they purchased West Lane Plumbing from Don and Jean Mulvaney.

Throughout his life, Ron was deeply committed to both his faith and his community. While living in Beaverton, he volunteered as a youth soccer coach and was an active member of Saint Cecilia's Men's Club. In Florence, Ron was involved with St Mary, Our Lady of the Dunes Men's Club.

Ron was especially proud of his involvement with Rotary International, where he held numerous leadership roles with a focus on the Global Grant program. For many years he volunteered with the Salmon and Trout Enhancement Program (STEP), helping to restore local fish populations and support stream conservation efforts. He contributed to the broader Florence community by serving on the Florence Port Commission and Urban Renewal Agency and he was a member of the Rhododendron Society. In recognition of his community service, Ron was honored as Florence's First Citizen 2016.

A lover of the outdoors, Ron enjoyed fishing, hunting, and spending time with his family and friends.

Ron was preceded in death by his parents, Louis and Lola Caputo, and his siblings Paul Caputo and Sharon Vanderzanden.

He is survived by his devoted wife of 61 years, Judy; four children: David Caputo and Jennifer Lawler of Nehalem, Dana and Doug Davis of Forest Grove, Christine Caputo of Hillsboro, and Dominic Caputo and Jacob Brostoff of Portland; two brothers and their wives, Jerry and Lori Caputo of Nehalem and Steven and Sharon Caputo of Salem; his sister, Julie Caputo of Portland; eight grandchildren: Stephanie, Jennifer, Cassandra, Gabby, Sarah, Luke, Joseph, and Mary Beth; as well as many nieces and nephews.

A Memorial Mass and reception was held September 18th at Saint Cecilia in Beaverton. A Funeral Mass and reception will be held October 4th at 11:00AM at St Mary, Our Lady of the Dunes in Florence.

## Hardy Plant sale at Sebright Gardens:

I signed up to volunteer for a few hours at the Salem Rhody Society booth on September 6th. This time my wife Gloria came along to enjoy views of the nursery and all sorts of plants.

Some of you may have heard of, or even visited, Sebright Gardens. Sebright is named “The Secret Gardens” and it is truly a secret. Located in the middle of the Willamette Valley vast farm lands, it is also a beautiful place to wander. You can get familiar with all sorts of plants, all aspects of garden design and the use of certain trees and shrubs.

Sebright Gardens specializes in Hostas, Ferns, Epimediums and shade-tolerant plants among other annuals, perennials and shrubs of all kinds.

The gardens have two sections; The older sections, with many varieties of flowering trees, Hostas and rare specimens of shrubs. The new section reminded me of a miniature Bucharth Gardens in Victoria Canada, with all sorts of flowering perennials, annuals, and specimen trees and shrubs with variation in their leaves.

Recently I noticed a layout of colorful paths for meandering through the displays. I find myself amidst an oasis when visiting there.

Sebright Gardens is approximately 4 acres and includes fields of so many varieties of Irises. Everything grows so beautifully here!

I asked staff how they grow *Cardiocrinum* plants, which I have problems growing in my yard. It does very well at this nursery, along with everything else. Both the Salem and Portland Rhododendron Societies had display booths that day, along with displays from specialized nurseries. They were there to sell their products and advertise their business. All in all it was a great day. It happened to be much cooler weather not only for visitors but also for plants!! So, if you are looking for inspiration head to Sebright Gardens, you'll be glad you did.

~Ali Sarlak



## Want to learn how to make styrofoam planters?

Ron Prchal will be having a workshop on Saturday October 11th at 2PM at 5043 S. Jetty Road. You must be a member of the chapter to participate.

Due to limited space, the workshop will be limited to 10 participants, but observers are welcome to come. Feel free to bring your own styrofoam containers. There are 4 openings left at this time.

Ron suggests you bring a non-serrated butcher knife (pointed knife tip is recommended) and a hair dryer or heat gun. He has some material available for those who do not want to make a planter, but want to experiment with some decorating techniques to use on their own.

If you are interested in the workshop, please e-mail him at [rhodyholic@msn.com](mailto:rhodyholic@msn.com) or call 541-902-7637. Participants will be accepted in the order received.



*Change This*



*Into This*

## 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 me an email. That way I get their correct email address.

If you have any articles that you would 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. We didn't have any pictures from the meeting. We'll try to get some at the October meeting.

Thanks,  
~ Steve Drochek

## **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)