

December 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
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What's Happening

Board Meeting: The next board board meeting will meet at Mike & Kathy Bones' house at 90379 Hwy.101 January 13th at 2:30pm.

Chapter Meeting: There will not be a meeting in December.

Christmas Potluck and Gift exchange:

December 7 - at the Jesse T. Jones Oddfellows Park at 4906 S. Jetty Rd. The big red ARS sign should be at the entrance to the park.

Gather at noon, eat at 1 pm. Bring a garden themed gift to exchange. Choose something that you would like to receive, and mark it for a man or a woman if it is gender specific. To reach the party, head south from Florence on 101 across across the bridge, turn right (west) on South Jetty Road and drive roughly ½ mile to the Jesse T. Jones Oddfellows Park on the left. Look for the circular building. We hope to see you there!

Everyone, please bring your own table service and beverages. (Coffee will be provided.) Anyone wishing to sign up on the potluck food list, please call Kathy Bones at 541- 997-3082. The pictures below indicate what people have signed up to bring and to show what we could use more of.

Oddfellows Campground
at at 12:00 ~~noon~~ ^{NOON}
at at 1:00 pm

Christmas Dinner
Siuslaw Rhododendron Chapter ARS
December 7, 2025

Turkey Bones

Ham Bill Hennig

Gravy Bones / ~~Smith~~ Jensen

Mashed Potatoes Linda Cochran

Sweet Potatoes/Yams Janet + Steve

Hot Vegetables 1. Zucchini Casserole Jody Dina
2. Noby Kroenert - Green Bean Cass.
3. Christina + Carlond - Brussel sprouts + Bacon

Rolls Ann Garin

Dressing Patricia Day Jamison
2. Price's cranberry dressing

Salad 1. Lisa Burt
2. Price's Christmas salad

Dessert 1. Clairice Davis
2. Enid + Ken
3. Jay + Pam Guettler
4. Jandi H. Lemon Squares
5. _____

Cranberries _____

Horsd'oeuvre (yes, it's spelled right)
1. Deviled Eggs / Pickal
2. _____

Cookie Team: Thank you to everyone that graciously volunteered to bring cookies to the Nov. 18th meeting. Atsuko enjoyed a few.

Thanks so much!

~ **Janet Von Toussaint**



Presidents Message: I hope that you had a Great Thanksgiving. This time of year, I try to think of things that I am grateful for. So many things come to my cluttered mind, so I took a walk outside looking at the plants, then I saw it.

Rhododendron Cynthia. She was the first Rhododendron that I planted here on the property. I knew that she would grow up and hide the fireplace that kind of stood out like a sore thumb. I started thinking.... I had purchased that plant from Agnas McCornack, one of our charter members of the Siuslaw Chapter. My thoughts started bouncing like that ping pong ball in a box car. I worked for Agnas before I could even drive a car. The stories that she would share with me, telling me what it was like growing up on the north fork of the Siuslaw River, her Mother being the first white lady in the area. I learned so much about our local area. Then my mind went to when Cynthia was hybridized, 1858, that was 167 years ago. The plant came from England, yet one of its species parents came from the east coast of the USA (*R. cawtawbiense*) while the other parent (*R. griffithianum*) came from Bhutan, but is also found in Sikkim and Nepal. I saw them growing in Sikkim. My mind bounces more. My mother Gladys helped me plant that first rhododendron. So, I had to think about her for awhile and all of the good things that she did. My mind is still wandering. I looked at the fireplace. My Uncle, when he first got out of the military in 1943, built that



fireplace using beach sand from out of the sand dunes just west of us. My mind keeps going to the four different families that have lived in this house, then my two children, Chris and Lori - how I would take a picture of them in front of Cynthia on their first day of school, from their first grade up through college. Yes, my mind keeps bouncing. Since Cynthia has been around for so many years, how many people throughout the world of Rhododendrons have grown her, what are their stories about this large stately Rhododendron with her rose colored flowers, that is still a trophy winning plant...

Merry Christmas everyone, and thanks for being in my mind as it wanders.

~ **Mike Bones, President**

Sandi Jensen submitted this picture of a Polar Ice Camellia blooming in her yard.



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. If that doesn't work, please let me know at 814-937-2930, or have them send me an email from their correct address. You can also direct people to the Siuslaw ARS website to see the latest newsletter. We encourage members to submit articles! Please don't hesitate to send those to me at the above email address. I'll be updating our website, so please send any suggestions or changes you would like to see. I will be removing the "Other West coast Chapter Page from the newsletter and putting that information on the webpage.

Thanks,
~ Steve Drochek

We have a couple of extra attachments this month:

One is more details of next Spring's Convention with our friends to the North on Vancouver Island. Make your plans now. It is a beautiful part of the world with great Rhododendron gardens.

The other is a report Don Hyatt, Newsletter Editor of the Potomac Valley Chapter created for the loss of Frank Fujioka. Frank was a giant in our Rhododendron world. Always so generous with his time and knowledge. His wonderful plants will keep him in our presence for a long time.

From the pictures on the next page, it looks like Atsuko Gibson enjoyed presenting to our chapter. She really enjoyed all the lovely snacks and had a very interesting presentation on the four seasons at the Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden.



Other Westcoast Chapter Meetings and Websites

EUGENE CHAPTER: Meetings October-May, 3rd Wednesday of the month 6:00pm, The Springs at Greer Gardens 282 Goodpasture Island Road, Eugene OR. In the Chapel Room

Website: 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

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

NOYO CHAPTER:

Website: www.rhodondrons-mendocino.org

EUREKA CHAPTER:

Website: eurekarhody.org

MT. ARROWSMITH RHODODENDRON SOCIETY:

Website: marsrhodos.ca

All other chapter web sites can be found on: rhododendron.org