

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

**Past President:** Day Farrald  
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**Director:** Ken Deibert - 2026  
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### Committee Members

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## **What's Happening**

**Board Meeting:** The next board board meeting will be held at Mike & Kathy Bones' house at 90379 Hwy.101 April 14<sup>th</sup> at 5:00pm.

**Chapter Meetings:** The Siuslaw Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society will meet at the Presbyterian Community Church, 3996 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 April 21<sup>st</sup> at Three Rivers Casino (5647 OR-126 Florence) in the food court at 4:00pm. Please note the earlier time and 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! If you are planning on going please take a look at their [menu](#) ahead of time if possible.

**Next Meeting topic:** Our meeting on April 21<sup>st</sup> will be our annual plant auction. **NOTE:** **The doors will open at 5:30 and the auction will begin at 6:00.** There will be all types of plants available, some garden items and maybe some great baked goods. If you are donating plants for the auction please ensure that the pots are in plastic bags to help keep the church surfaces and floors clean. We will be accepting cash, checks and charge cards. Please bring your family, friends and neighbors for this fun night. You won't get deals anywhere like you will at the auction! Mike Bones will be the auctioneer.

**Cookie Team:** The following people have generously volunteered to bring cookies to the early Rhody show on Saturday April 18<sup>th</sup>: Sandi Hennig, Jenny Green, Enid Deibert, Nancy Burns and Janet Von Toussaint.

The following people have graciously volunteered to bring cookies to the early Rhody show on Sunday April 19<sup>th</sup>: Lisa Garcia, Clarice Davis, Steven Price, Sam Akins and Susan Walker.

Anyone else wanting to donate food items for either or both days are highly encouraged.

The following people have volunteered to bring cookies to the April 21<sup>st</sup> meeting: Cheryl Beauvais, Tom Oshel, Rosemary Rebello Janet Von Toussaint.  
Thanks so much!

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

### **Upcoming Meeting Events:**

April 18 & 19, Early Flower Show - Day Farrald

April 21 - Annual plant Auction – **Remember this meeting will start at 6:00pm.**

May Rhododendron Parade Float - Garland Alston

May 15 & 16, Rhododendron Festival and Flower Show - Day Farrald

May 19 - Follow-up on shows, and Bruce and Linda Cochran's trip to Holland

June 16 Picnic - Vote for one Board Member, get involved.

**Presidents Message:** Welcome to April, 2026! Time seems to fly when our gardens bloom. Different plants come into bloom daily, I see something new each day. Today I found a clump of yellow Erythronium in full bloom. I look at a rhody flower bud one day and the next day it has color exposed, then in no time at all, it is in full bloom and I think to myself, "Wow! I can't wait for it to stop blooming so that I can watch that new growth open up with the tender young leaves."

Here in the sandy Florence area, it wouldn't hurt to toss out some fertilizer, just remember to not put it in a pile, but "chicken feed" it.

At our March meeting, Jack Olsen showed us some great new foliate plants that he has hybridized. His garden is amazing, one worth the trip over to see, in all seasons.

Linda Farrald handed out a questionnaire asking, "What do you want to see at our meetings?" Your Board does need your input. Please bring forms back to our next meeting, or e-mail one of the board members with your ideas. Have you thought about presenting a program about your garden? Maybe you have a problem with a plant, show pictures of it, and let's discuss what is best for the plant.

The April Chapter meeting will be a fun filled evening. It's right after our Early show, with everything starting one hour earlier, dinner at 4, doors open at 5:30, meeting starts at 6 pm. It's a Live Auction of plants, garden items, maybe some home cooked deserts and home-canned foods. WE all bring things in for the auction, then buy them back at a nice price. It is a fund-raiser. Bring your friends and neighbors, cash, checkbook or plastic. Spread the word! Lets fill the room with both plants and people! See You on the third Tuesday, April 21st.  
Happy Easter

~ Mike Bones, President

**It's fun time again!** The season is upon us, and we need to get ready for RHODY SHOWS! Spring done sprung and blooms are busting out all over our beautiful Oregon Coast. There may be many Rhododendrons in bloom that we seldom see in our early show. I have several plants showing color that have always been exhibited in the May show. It will be interesting.

Now, about the show, we need help. Teamwork is the key. Enclosed is a chronology of activities and committees necessary to present two of the most stellar Rhododendron Shows in the Country.

**Thursday April 16<sup>th</sup> at 3:30** a group will meet at the storage unit to load the display racks and all the show paraphernalia. We have enough able-bodied people to do this.

About **4 to 4:15** we will need all the help we can get at the Event Center to assemble the racks. If you can help, please come. You should bring a **3/8 and a 7/16 socket or wrench** to help with the assembly. At this time, we will also try to set up the tables for *hospitality* and *clerk's* and *trophies*.

**Friday** is our day to bring trusses. (My ever-superior computer just suggested 'trousers' instead of 'trusses'.) So, while bringing your trusses to the Event Center between **5 and 7pm**, please wear trousers or other appropriate apparel. If you need display bottles or stoppers or entry tags, please contact me and I will get them to you. Having them filled out ahead of time will save a lot of time. Placement of the trusses requires some help, so, if you can, please come and help put the flowers in their proper classification on the display rack. It's easy and a teachable moment.

On **Saturday from 7 to 9 am** the public may enter their trusses. If you have any friends who intend to bring entries, let them know the times. At this time, we will need additional help placing the flowers in the appropriate place. At 9am the judging will begin. Show doors will open at the conclusion of the judging. Also, the **Hospitality table** should be completely set up as well as the **Clerk's table** and the **Trophy table**.

Outside, Saturday morning we will need help setting up the plant sale area. This is the most physical job of the Show. So, bring some muscle, beginning at **8 or 9 am**.

At **5pm on Sunday** we will need to break down the entire Show. All display racks, displays, etc. will need to be disassembled and prepared for the storage unit. Like a swarm of bees, we can do this in less than an hour if we have help. So, please hang around to lend a hand. And don't forget the tools.

If you can lend a hand, here are the committee chairs:

Hospitality	Sandi Hennig
Clerks	Janet von Toussaint
Judges	Day Farrald
Plant Sales	Bill Hennig
Trophies	Susan Walker

~ Day Farrald, Show Chairperson  
[day817@outlook.com](mailto:day817@outlook.com) or (541) 579-5544

**Notification of Michael Robert's Celebration of Life:** There will be a celebration of Life for Michael at High Pass Winery, 24757 Lavell Road, just off High Pass Road west of Junction City, OR, Sunday April 26<sup>th</sup>, from 1 to 4 PM. Sympathy cards should be sent to his sister at: Marilyn Robert, 2190 Essex Ln, Eugene, OR 97403.

Michael was a long-time member of the Eugene Chapter, ARS. He was a chapter board member and chapter president for several years. He also was employed by the City of Eugene to be the Head of Hendericks Park before Emily Aune. He will be missed by many for all that he did with rhododendrons.

Thank You,  
~ Nancy Greer

**Rhody Float Volunteers Needed:** Put on your thinking caps and use your imagination to help with the design and assembly of the Rhody float for the Rhody Festival Parade in May. Garland Alston will be heading this project up. If you can lend a hand, please contact him at (701)609-0207 or send him an email at [ga@therhodybrodee.com](mailto:ga@therhodybrodee.com).

**Pictures from ARS members:**



Rhododendron tuba submitted by Sandi Jensen.  
Sorry but the newsletter does not support smell-a-picture.

Ken Diebert submitted this picture of himself with R. Dame Nellie Melba at Gallagher Park. Mike Bones recalls when they brought this plant into the park, it came from Dave Shepherd's garden south of Florence.



Steve Drochek submitted this picture of Rubicon getting ready to pop!

**Pictures from the Florence Home and Garden Show:**



*The first hourly drawing winner!*

**Pictures from the February meeting:**

