

February 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
541-997-3082
rhodies@charter.net

Vice-President: Cheryl Prchal - 2028
541-902-7637
rhodyholic@msn.com

Secretary: Kathy Bones - 2026
541-997-3082
kathybones@charter.net

Treasurer: Linda Farrald - 2026
541-305-1022
TreasurerSARS@gmail.com

Board Members:

Past President: Day Farrald
541-579-5544
day817@outlook.com

Director: Ken Deibert - 2026
530-919-0941
kenco.no1@gmail.com

Director: Steve Drochek - 2027
814-937-2930
sdrochek@yahoo.com

Director: Sandi Jensen - 2028
541-505-4246
sfuchsia@gmail.com

Committee Members

Sunshine:
Sandi Hennig
541-997-2489
flendish42@gmail.com

Publicity:
Day Farrald
541-579-5544
day817@outlook.com

Dinner & Cookie coordinator:
Janet Von Toussaint
925-285-3945
jfvonto@yahoo.com

Newsletter Editor / Webmaster:
Steve Drochek
814-937-2930
siuslawars.news@gmail.com

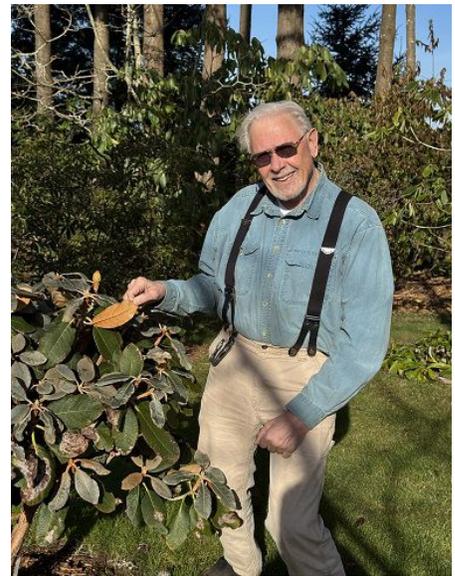
What's Happening

Board Meeting: The next board board meeting will be held at Mike & Kathy Bones' house at 90379 Hwy.101 February 10th at 3:30pm.

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 February 17th at Abby's Legendary Pizza (1374 US-101 Florence) at 5:00pm. Please contact Janet Von Toussaint at 925-285-3945 or email her at jfvonto@yahoo.com to reserve your place at the dinner table. Be there for great fun, great food, & great company! Because we are a group, we'll receive 10% off.

Next Meeting topic: Our meeting on February 17th will be a presentation by Dr. Keith White. With 40 years on the Board of the Rhododendron Species Foundation and currently its president, Dr. White is imminently qualified. He has trekked throughout Southeast Asia searching for that elusive species while appreciating the hundreds of varieties already found. Having traveled to China and Tibet four times each and Sikkim twice, he discovered species not seen before. Steve Hootman, director of the Rhododendron Botanical Species Foundation, and Peter Cox, world renowned botanist, hybridizer and plant explorer, accompanied Keith several times. Always enthusiastic about sharing his love of Rhododendrons and exploration, his entertaining and knowledgeable presentations continue to entertain. This presentation will about one of his trips to China and Tibet.



Cookie Team: The following people have graciously volunteered to bring cookies to the February 17th meeting: Cheryl Beauvais, Cheryl Prchal and Patricia Day Jamison. Thanks so much!

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

Our Sunshine Lady: Sandi Hennig has asked me to let you know that she is ready, willing and able to send out cards and notes to anyone needing a little cheering up. Please call her at 541-997-2489 or email her at flendish42@gmail.com with the name of anyone needing a card. Also, If you hear of anyone in our group who has passed away, please let either Sandi, or someone on our board know via phone or email. You will find the board members names and contact information in our newsletter.



~ Thank You, Sandi Jensen

Volunteers Needed: We will be looking for volunteers who can help out at the Home and Garden Show on March 6th and 7st. As always, we will have a plant drawing give-away every hour, Rhodies for sale and a knowledgeable staff to answer questions. If you can help out please sign up at the February meeting. If you can't help out, you should plan on attending this fun community event.

Upcoming Meeting Events:

March 6 & 7, Home and Garden Show at the FEC, Mike Bones
Mar 17, Jack Olson, hybridizing for year around foliage
April 18 & 19, Early Flower Show, Day Farrald
April 21, Annual plant Auction
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: Our first month of the new year has passed, bringing early daffodils and some spotted color from our favorite Rhododendrons and Azaleas. The pale pink of small trusses on Christmas Cheer is a tattletale of what's to come for the 2026 flowering season. With our mild season, I am sure that other colors will soon be popping. There are some awesome looking flower buds out there. Our next meeting is one that you will not want to miss, bring a friend or two. Dr Keith White (President of the Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden) will be talking about plants from Tibet and China. The next best thing to going on a plant exposition is attending a talk where the speaker has ventured into those remote areas of the world. They have braved the rains, steep hill sides, crossed those torrent creeks and rivers, fought off the insects, pulled the leaches off of their own bodies, slept on the ground, yet, have seen some of the most beautiful and rugged terrain where rhododendrons grow in the wild. From small rhododendron species a foot tall to those tree species that tower 50 feet or more over head, all with blooms of pink, white, purple, red, yellow and colors in between. These species are what our hybrids are created from.



~ Mike Bones, President

Save the Date:

American Rhododendron Society 2026 Spring Convention Vancouver Island, British Columbia.

“Rhododendrons & Companions in a Changing Climate” April 21 – 25, 2026

Spring Propagation Fair: It's that time of year again and I am starting to think about the next spring seed and scion exchange. The 2026 Western Lane County Spring Propagation Fair will be held at the Mapleton Middle School on March 14 this year. Are you willing to volunteer again? Do you know other people and groups who might be interested? Please share the word. More details to come as the event nears.

It's time to start collecting scion wood to graft at the scion exchange. With luck we should be getting some chilly days to harvest plum, apricot, peach, and cherry scions through February. In the next few weeks we'll also be focusing on collecting scions and cuttings for grapes, apples, pears, quince, mulberry, fig, kiwi, pomegranate, berries, etc.

If you want help pruning and collecting we might be able to set up an Agrarian Sharing Network (ASN) work day. Please contact me if you are willing and interested in sharing your trees at the event.

Appreciatively,

~ Erick Oshel (541-991-9345) or erick_oshel@yahoo.com

I'd like to thank Ken Diebert for sending me the picture of some folks picking some of the beautiful dahlia tubers that Dan Greene shared with the group. Once again I blanked on taking pictures at the meeting.

~ Steve Drochek



I'd like to thank Ken Diebert for sharing this picture of his Christmas Cheer Rhododendron that he has only had for two years.