

March 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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Director: Steve Drochek - 2027
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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 March 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 March 17th at the Himalayan Grill House (1341 Bay St, 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! If you are planning on going please take a look at their [menu](#) ahead of time if possible.

Next Meeting topic: Our meeting on March 17th will be a presentation by Jack Olson. Jack is a lifetime member of the International Rhododendron Society, he has dedicated decades of his life to studying and hybridizing rhododendrons and various other plants. His passion and expertise in the field have led him to register many of his rhododendron hybrids internationally. His program will be about unusual characteristics of Rhododendrons. He will provide information about the differences one can find in plants, foliage, buds, bark, and flowers. You will learn something different about rhododendrons.



Cookie Team: The following people have graciously volunteered to bring cookies to the March 17th meeting: Sandi Hennig, Jenny Green and Enid Deibert. 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.

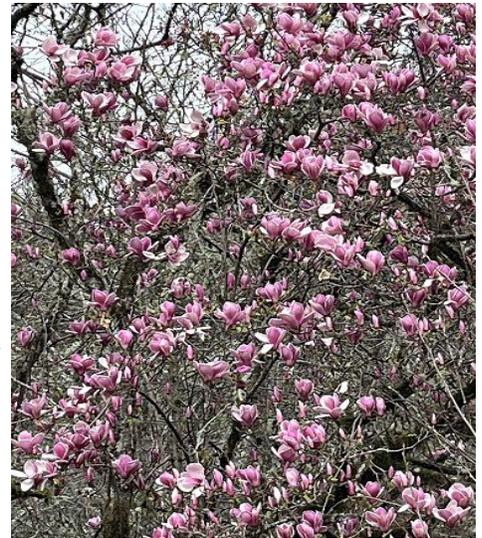


~ Thank You, Sandi Jensen

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 – Remember this meeting will start 1 hour earlier
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: Spring is here, the frogs are croaking, the ducks and geese along the Siuslaw River are paired up, daffodils are popping open with their bright yellows and whites. I look across the road and see the large magnolia blooming at my Mothers old place. White calla lilies are blooming, R Seta is in full bloom with its white and pink flowers, Cornubia with its early red trusses. President Roosevelt showing the red and white flowers with its variegated yellow and green foliage. As spring arrives, we look forward to another great blooming season with not only our favorite rhododendron and azaleas, but the massive other plants that we can grow in our mild coastal climate. On these sunny days, take a pair of pruners or loppers and cut out those dead branches.



Check to see if you have slugs eating your tender plants and if you do, start the exterminating process, remember it only takes a few months for those pesty guys to eat, lay eggs and grow another generation of mass destruction (see picture).

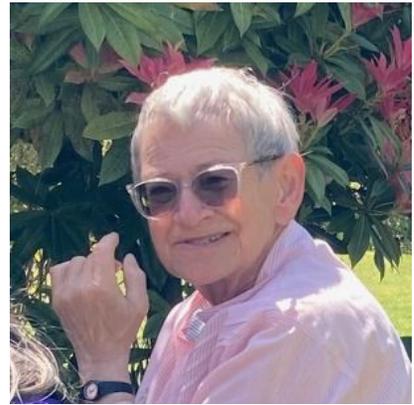
Stop by the Siuslaw Chapter's booth at the Florence Home and Garden Show, Friday, March 6th (12 to 6) or Saturday, March 7th (10 to 6) and sign up for a free Rhododendron. Thanks to those who volunteered to help in our booth. Make sure and bring a friend or two to our next meeting to see some exciting new foliage and plants from Jack Olson, who is our current District Director who represents our chapter at the ARS functions.

~ Mike Bones, President

Sad News for the ARS: We have received word that our member and one of our major contributors to our flower shows, Liz Hultin passed away last Sunday. We hope to have an obituary to print for a later newsletter, but wanted everyone to know this sad news.



You can send condolences to her family at 84419 N Bank Ln Bandon, OR 97411-7302. Here is a picture of Liz and her husband Tom at one of our meetings, and one of Liz at their place during the trip the club took south a couple years ago. Her husband said that they plan to have a gathering at their place when the rhodies are in bloom, but no date has been set yet. We will let you know when we know when more information is available.



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~ Sandi Jensen

Good News for the ARS: We wanted to recognize the years of commitment by the Thompson family with the highest honor we could bestow. This Saturday, February 28th several of us traveled to Waldport to award Bronze medals to Roy and Evelyn Thompson, and their daughter Michele all of whom have contributed much to the Siuslaw ARS, and the rest of the rhododendron community.



Thank you Sandi Jensen and Ken Deibert for the pictures.

My visit to Leach's Gardens N.E Portland:

I am always looking for inspiring places: homes, gardens and nature spots to visit. This time a friend wanted to pick up a plant from One Green World and asked for a ride to Portland Oregon.

Along the way there I saw a sign for Leach's Gardens and I told my friend let's visit this garden! This was my first visit there.

A little background on Leach's family. Lilla Irvin Leach was a botanist who, with her husband John, collected plants throughout Oregon, especially S.W. Oregon and the Siskiyou Mountains.

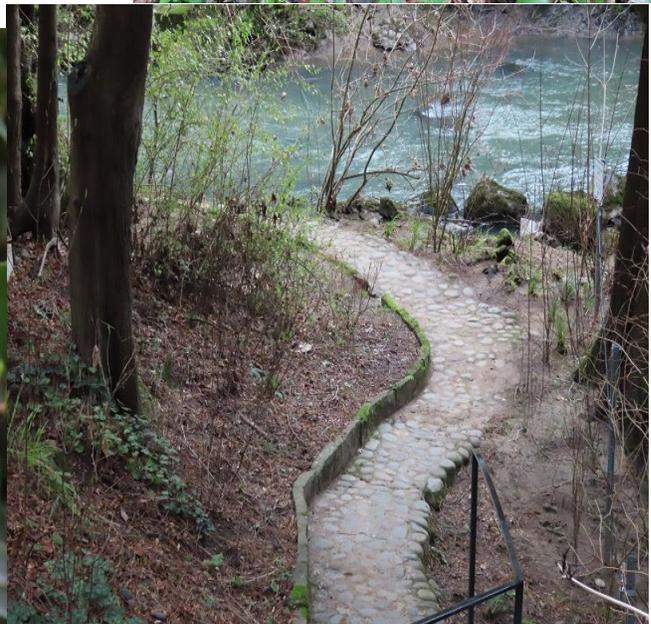


Now about the Gardens: The Gardens were established in 1931 as home and gardens for Lilla and John Leach. The original building on site was built in 1936 and was named Sleepy Hollow, for what ever reason, but looking at it now it's a paradise. The gardens are an oasis: there are 80 some year old conifer trees, many blooming camellias of all colors, butterfly gardens, rock gardens, an aerial tree walk, and many paths to wander around. An old cottage still sits on the site as well as mighty John Creek, which is a refreshing and soothing experience .

During my visit, when I spoke to a booth attendant, I found out they are having financial challenges in keeping this place going because of heavy budget cuts. The Gardens are kept running by city of Portland park and public donations.

So, I'd like to put the word out: if you can support them, please do so. It would be a huge loss if these amazing gardens were to close. I am hoping they stay open for us all to admire and enjoy.

~ Ali Sarlak



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.

Do you know other people and groups who might be interested? Please share the word!

Everyone is invited to participate.

Please contact me if you are willing and interested in volunteering at the event.

Appreciatively,

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

AGRARIAN SHARING NETWORK
SPRING 2026

PROPAGATION FAIR

Mapleton
Mapleton High School, 10868 E Mapleton Rd

SATURDAY, MARCH 14TH
10AM - 3PM

SCION SWAP & SEED EXCHANGE

SHARE IT!

SEEKING CUTTINGS OF NAMED VARIETIES OF PROLIFIC, HEALTHY, UNSPRAYED & ORGANIC

APPLE • PEAR
PLUM • PEACH
GRAPE • FIGS
BERRIES

The Agrarian Sharing Network (ASN) is a decentralized, collaborative network focused on distributing plant diversity to friends and neighbors and creating a shareable reproducible model for others to implement. It's as much about the plants as it is the people.

VOLUNTEER!

LOOKING FOR FOLKS TO CONTRIBUTE TO AND SHARE IN THIS COMMUNITY - DRIVEN EVENT.

FREE EVENT!

THIS FREE EVENT INCLUDES:

AFFORDABLE ROOTSTOCK & GRAFTING
FREE, QUALITY SELECTED SCION
FREE SEED SWAP
AFFORDABLE & FREE LIVE PLANTS

AGRARIAN SHARING NETWORK

JOIN THE A.S.N. SEED-STEWARDSHIP INITIATIVE!
FOR MORE INFO AND TO VOLUNTEER, CONTACT [INFO@AGRARIANSHARING.NET](mailto:info@agrariansharing.net)
WWW.AGRARIANSHARING.NET & AGRARIAN SHARING ON FACEBOOK

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. Garland Alston will be heading this project up and if you could lend a hand please contact him at (701)609-0207 or send him an email at GA@therhodybrodee.com.

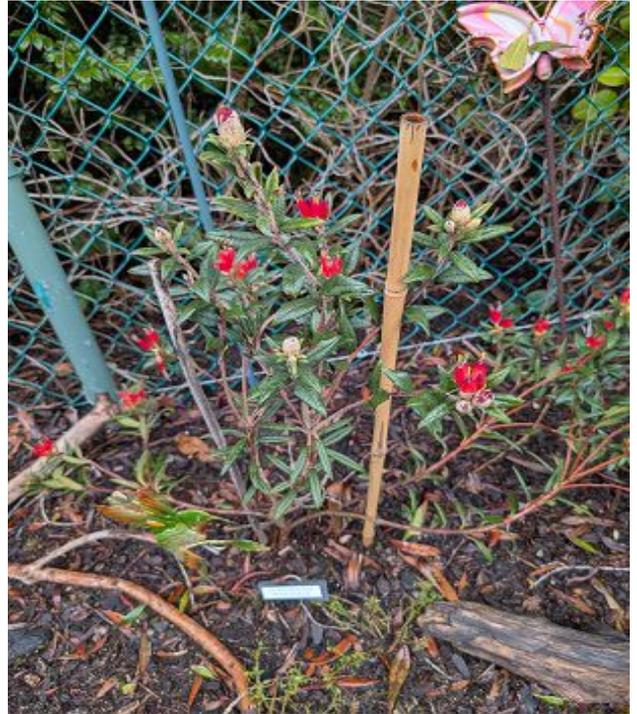
Pictures from ARS members:



Seta and President Roosevelt from Bill and Sandi Hennig



Azaleodendron Hardijzer's Beauty and Cornubia from Mike Bones



PJM Checkmate and Spinaliferum from Steve and Janet



We also have this unknown cutie. (not a Rhody but blooming) If anyone knows the name please let me or Janet know, Thanks

~ Steve

Pictures from the February meeting:

