



Macrophyllum

FEBRUARY 2010

Newsletter of the
Siuslaw Chapter
American Rhododendron Society
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Florence, OR 97439-0111

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UPCOMING Chapter Events

Meeting Topic- Jack Olson, hybridizer (read about him on bottom of page 2)

Chapter Meeting – We will see you on Tuesday, February 16 at 6:30 p.m. for refreshments; the meeting starts at 7:00 p.m. We meet at the Presbyterian Church, 3996 Hwy 101 N in Florence. Pre-meeting dinner will be at Bliss's Hot Rod Grill at 5:00 p.m. Be sure to contact Rosemary Rebello a week in advance for reservations (541) 997-6167 or tonyrosemmary@charter.net

Gallagher Park Work Party – Wednesday February 17 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 Noon. The Park is at the corner of Spruce and Hwy 126. Gene Cockeram- flowerman@q.com

Cookie Team-Sandi Hennig, Freda Ziegelmaier, Dan Bones, Ron Sjogren

Flower Shows this spring at the FEC- Early show is April 24/25. Rhody Festival show is May 22/23.

Other Chapter Flower Shows: April 17 & 18—Southwestern Oregon Flower Show, Pony Village Mall

Donations for Early Flower Show trophies- our next newsletter will have a form you can clip out to send in your donation for trophies. Every little bit helps and the winners really appreciate those trophies you donate. The smiles and joy are worth every penny!

F is for February

February is the month for love. Who could not love this beautiful *faucium*. This beauty is a species from China (S. Tibet). Its height in ten years is only about 6 feet. *Faucium* is an early to early mid-season bloomer, with pink to white tinged pink trusses with purple spotting. A truss holds 5-10 flowers. There is no fragrance. Its habit is upright shrub or small tree. Sub Genus is *Hymenanthes* and Section is *Ponticum*, Sub Section is *Thomsonia*. The cold hardiness of this plant is 0°F. Right photo was taken by Kenneth Cox and left photo taken by Hank Helm.



HINSDALE ESTATE WOODLAND GARDEN

Some of you know about the Hinsdale Garden project. It involves the property owned by O. Howard Hinsdale, located on a tiny island close to Hwy 138 on the Umpqua river just 5 miles east of Reedsport and across the highway from the Elk Preserve which hugs the highway on its south side. This historical woodland garden is being repaired and put back to its original beauty by a great group of people from the BLM and ARS.

Of special interest to many rhody growers are the many hybrid azaleas from China. There are rhododendrons and camellias as well as other plants from all over the world. Many large trees were trucked on to the property and planted as full grown specimens. You can help preserve this historical woodland garden in future by volunteering for work groups and visiting the preserve as the BLM opens the property for tours this spring.

To learn more about the BLM project, go to this website link that has several .pdf formatted documents you can read about the history of the estate and about the draft plans being proposed.

http://www.blm.gov/or/resources/recreation/site_info.php?siteid=31

When you arrive at the web-screen from the link above, look on the right side of the screen and you will find a list of several .pdf documents available to open and read or print. [A view of the web-screen page is below.] ▼

Our Siuslaw Chapter ARS has been and continues to be active in assisting the others in bringing this heritage site to life for the general public to enjoy. We were told by Mr. Samuels (BLM) last night during his presentation that in a couple of years there may be better walking access to the preserve by a new footbridge proposed. Due to traffic issues there will probably never be auto access to the public, but having a footbridge to cross would be very nice.

Please take a moment and visit this BLM website. You might even find some other great spots to visit in Oregon and you will certainly learn more about what our BLM is doing to preserve the land heritage in Oregon.

National BLM > OR/WA > Recreation Print this page

Dean Creek Elk Viewing Area

Coos Bay District | OR

Season Dates: 01/01 - 12/31

Fees: No fees associated with this site.

The Dean Creek Elk Viewing Area is the year-round residence for a herd of about 100 Roosevelt elk. A mild winter climate and abundant food allow the Roosevelt elk to remain at the Dean Creek Elk Viewing Area all year. The O.H. Hinsdale Rhododendron Garden is located across Highway 38 from the elk viewing area. This site is currently not open to the public, but the District is developing a plan to provide public access.

[View other Recreation Sites in the Coos Bay District >>](#)

Activities: **Facilities:**

Map:

Brochures:

- [Dean Creek Elk Viewing Area](#)
- [ARS O.H. Hinsdale Garden Article Part 1](#)
- [ARS O.H. Hinsdale Garden article Part 2](#)
- [ARS O.H. Hinsdale Garden article Part 3](#)

Related Websites:

- [Dean Creek Webcam](#)

A little bit about this month's presenter... Jack Olson.

Jack Olson, a retired School Teacher from the Eugene Schools, has been growing Rhododendrons for the past 30 years. He was bitten by the rhody bug after visiting Gladys Swenson. (Black Eye, Red Eye, Sunspray) His city lot in Eugene quickly filled up, so He purchased a piece of property in Fall Creek, Oregon. Jack's passion grew, to rooting cuttings and into hybridizing and naming rhododendrons. His garden is one that everyone would enjoy.

SECRETARY'S REPORT By: Merilee Mulvey (for Kathy Bones, out on recovery)

The January meeting was a wonderful presentation about the Hinsdale Garden by Steve Samuels (BLM) with a digital presentation of pictures and recorded interviews with owners of the Hinsdale Estate in Reedsport Oregon. Bill Johnson did a fabulous job on the PowerPoint presentation of Hinsdale Estate.

We give a big **'Thank You'** to both gentlemen.

Bill Hennig, Vice-President of our chapter, stepped in for Mike Bones as MC of the meeting. Thanks to the cookie people for their goodies. Debbie Drefchinski needs a substitute person to manage the coffee pot setup in the event she cannot make a meeting sometime. Please contact her if you can be her 'stand-in.' **Thank you** to those who donated the six plants for our monthly raffle.

The membership present at the meeting signed get well cards for several members who need our well wishes and moral support as they overcome illnesses and surgery. We have more Greer Rhododendron books. Contact Ron Sjogren or buy one at the flower shows.

Our chapter is going to be 40 years old in February. The Rhododendron Park on the corner of Spruce and Hwy 126 was created just three years later, according to member Gene Cockeram.

If you missed the meeting, you missed a very interesting presentation about a historical gem right in our neighborhood.

Fertilizer... Shmertilizer...It's in the Soil!

I was reading Bob MacIntyre's 'Kitchen Table' column in the Southwestern chapter newsletter today and realized that it's already time to start fertilizing. (Where did the time go?) Bob recommends feeding your rhodies three times during the year, starting from President's Day (February 15). He also suggests adding a bit of dolomite lime to your fertilizer.

Here is more feeding information from our National ARS website:

In fertile soils rhododendrons and azaleas can be grown well without receiving further fertilization. However, if plants are mulched with something like fresh sawdust or wood chips, there will be a nitrogen demand caused by the decomposition of these materials, and unless nitrogen is added, the plants are likely to show yellowish foliage and poor growth. In this case a fertilizer such as ammonium sulfate should be added. It is safer to use mulches other than those containing fresh sawdust or wood chips and then you don't have to be concerned with exactly how much extra fertilizer to add, as excess fertilizer can harm your plants by "burning" the roots.

For rhododendrons planted in less fertile soils, a complete fertilizer designed for acid-loving plants may be applied in late winter or early spring. Be careful to use only the amounts recommended for rhododendrons and azaleas, which normally require less fertilizer than plants such as grasses and vigorous shrubs. In cold climates, nitrogen fertilizer should not be applied after late June as it may promote new lush growth susceptible to winter damage. Recent research indicates that plants reasonably well supplied with nutrients, including nitrogen, are more resistant to low temperatures than those that are starved.

Phosphorus in fertilizer tends to favor early production of flower buds. If your soil is deficient in phosphorus and since phosphorus does not readily move through the soil, phosphorus should be incorporated into the soil at planting time if needed. Magnesium in the form of Epsom salts is sometimes recommended for rhododendrons. Magnesium is an essential element and lack of it will cause yellowish areas between the leaf veins on older leaves. If the leaves are a solid green the addition of Epsom salts would not be useful.

Lack of iron causes much the same symptoms as lack of magnesium, but with the younger leaves showing yellowing between the veins. Iron deficiency is frequently caused by too high a soil pH, often the result of mortar or mortar building debris in the soil near the roots. A soil test should be performed to see whether high pH is a problem and if it is the soil should be acidified. For a quick but temporary solution, ferrous sulfate can be added to the soil or chelated iron can be sprayed on the foliage, but the pH should be corrected for long term good growth.

Calcium is also essential to good rhododendron growth. Calcium can be obtained either from gypsum or from agricultural lime. Gypsum will not raise soil pH, while lime will, therefore, lime is not generally recommended in areas with naturally alkaline soil or water. <http://www.rhododendron.org/index.htm> ◀ARS National Website link.

Rhododendron/Azalea fertilizer is available from our chapter (in 50 pound bags from Mike Bones). Contact him for purchase: 541.997.3082

Editor's Corner:

It's time to break out the 2010 calendar and start marking dates for all those trips you want to take to attend ARS conventions around the country. Pack your suitcase, make plane reservations (ouch\$), and send in those registration forms pronto. Here are some of the events coming up:

April 9-11 the Ultimate Rhododendron Conference at the UBC Botanical Garden and Centre for Plant Research, Vancouver, BC. The National ARS website has downloadable information and registration form. <http://www.rhodos.ca/> Open to all gardeners who want to learn more about rhododendrons. Featuring classroom and field experiences at two learning levels taught by Douglas Justice and Ron Knight, tours of three world-class gardens, and rhody sales. Registration is limited to 100 attendees. There will be an early registration discount.

May 14-17 the ARS Annual Convention. Timed for peak bloom on Long Island, NY the Annual Convention will be held at the Holiday Inn in Ronkonkoma. Hosted by the three Chapters of District 7 the meeting features beautiful garden tours, including the Phipp's estate and the Planting Fields Arboretum, a wonderful flower show and plant sale and educational sessions of value for attendees. All are invited to this exciting event. Registration form is in our quarterly ARS Journal on page 32.

October 8-10 is our Western Regional Conference in Florence. Our chapter will have the official conference website up and running in a couple of months. Keep your eye out in the spring newsletters of our chapter for the link to the site.

Now that you've taken care of the trip plans, pull out your April, May and October monthly calendars and mark down the early flower show in April, the Rhododendron Festival flower show in May and the 10-10-10 October Regional Conference right here in Florence. Raise your hand to volunteer a couple of hours or more for each event. Everyone in our chapter needs to help at the two flower shows this spring. We can't keep expecting those few dedicated members who help each year to go it alone. It's really fun and easy and the compliments the community members give us is worth the time.

Be sure to check page 56 of the winter issue of the ARS Journal and read about Gene Cockeram's (r) '*The Pink Ribbons*' newly registered rhododendron. It will be discussed (with photos) in a later issue of the ARS Journal and also in our chapter newsletter as we get closer to the 10-10-10 conference in October.

Enjoy! Merilee

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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 and azaleas in home, business, and public landscapes.
- Advocating the conservation and preservation of superior plants of our native Rhododendrons and their habitat along the Oregon Coast.
- Advancing and supporting the mission of the American Rhododendron Society.