



Macrophyllum

April 2003

Newsletter of the
**Siuslaw Chapter
American Rhododendron Society**
Post Office Box 1701
Florence, OR 97439-0111

From the VP

We are now well into our blooming season and our gardens are alive with color. Here in the central Oregon coast area our blooming season normally begins in December unless we get one of those rare really cold winters. However, it is during the months of April and May when our gardens are at their peak bloom. These are the months when we put on our rhododendron shows at the Florence Events Center. This year our April show will be held on April 5th and 6th. The May show is always held in conjunction with the Rhododendron Festival the 3rd weekend of May. I hope that each of you will bring trusses to the shows. It's more fun when everyone participates.

Our guest speaker for our April meeting will be Steve Hootman, co-curator of the Rhododendron Species Foundation located near Federal Way, Washington. We always enjoy Steve's presentation as he takes us into the magical world of rhododendrons. I'm sure you will not want to miss this meeting. Steve will also be our guest for our pre-meeting dinner. We always have a good time at these dinners and the more of us that are there, the better time we have.

Last year was the start of our *R. macrophyllum* project. We got a good start on identifying some of the locations of superior specimens of our native rhododendron. We were successful in finding some excellent plants, also some white forms and one plant with pink and white [apple blossom] flowers.

We knew when we started the project that it would take several years to complete it. We are looking for nice early blooming plants, plants with white flowers, plants with dark pink to red flowers [last year we found one of these, too], plants with large full trusses and good foliage, late flowering plants, etc.

We need to be especially observant in areas where 'growth' is projected to occur. Every year development causes the loss of many native plants, including *R. macrophyllum*. If we can get cuttings or grafting material from these plants before they are destroyed, we want to do so.

Gene Cockeram is our *R. macrophyllum* project manager. He is also a Florence Park Commissioner. Gene has identified a location in Gallagher's Park where we can start placing these selected clones. By this fall, when the planting season begins, we hope to have several plants ready to be set out there. Each plant will have a name so that we can identify it. For example, the 'apple-blossom' plant that Jeannie Shields and Marty Beam found will be labeled 'Marty-Jean'. That is, if I can get a graft of it to take. Remember, if you locate one of these better forms of *R. macrophyllum*, you have the choice of naming it.

Everett Hall, Vice President

**Treasures of the Pacific Northwest
American Rhododendron Society
58th International Convention**
Olympia, Washington
April 30 - May 4, 2003

There is still time to participate in the next annual meeting. See the *Journal American Rhododendron Society*, vol. 57, #1, Winter 2003 for details.

President: Mike Bones
(541) 997-3082
mailto:rhodies@harborside.com
Vice President: Everett Hall
(541) 997-3605
mailto:evhall@msn.com
Secretary: Kathy Bones
(541) 997-3082
mailto:rhodies@harborside.com
Treasurer: Sandi Huffman
(541) 997-3082
mailto:sandi@cardinal-services.com
Board Members:
Jim Smith, Past President
(541) 268-6821
mailto:Rhody1@presys.com
Eileen McKenney (03)
(541) 997-2222
mailto:egmc@oregonfast.net
Dave Shepherd (04)
(541) 997-2283
mailto:drshepherd@oregonfast.net
Jeannie Shields (05)
(541) 902-8358
Newsletter:
Charles M. King
(541) 902-0469
mailto:kingcm@presys.com
Paul M. Wilson
(541) 902-9780
mailto:jwilson@oregonfast.net
Book Chairperson:
Marianne Horney
(541) 997-6626
mailto:maribob@oregonfast.net

APRIL CALENDAR

Early Rhododendron Show
Saturday & Sunday, April 5 - 6
Entries: 7 to 9 am, Saturday
Display: Saturday after judging
until 5 pm & Sunday 1 - 4 pm
Florence Event Center

April Board Meeting
(2nd) Tuesday, April 8
7 pm at Eileen McKenney's

Study Group
(3rd) Monday, April 21
7 pm at Mike Bones
90379 Oregon Coast Hwy

April General Meeting
(3rd) Tuesday, April 15
7 pm at NACO West
Campground, So. Jetty Road

Speaker
Steve Hootman, Co-curator
Rhododendron Species Found.
Federal Way, WA
Pre-Meeting Dinner
Firehouse Restaurant at 5 pm
Important-for reservations!
Contact Eileen McKenney at
(541) 997-2222, or
mailto:egmc@oregonfast.net

Cookies

Diane Ginn
Sandi Jensen
Sylvia Smith



***R.makinoi* : Plant of the Month**

Some of my favorite rhododendrons and azaleas are native to the Japanese Islands and, with few exceptions, these plants are easy to grow here in the Oregon central coast area. One of the Japanese species that grows well in our area is *R.makinoi*, which is native to the northern mountains of the island of Honshu.

Even if this rhododendron never came into bloom, it would still be a welcome addition to your garden. Mature specimens of *R.makinoi* grown in cultivation are mound-shaped plants about five or six feet tall.

It is the foliage on *R.makinoi* that makes it so desirable as an ornamental plant. The lance shaped leaves are about 5 or 6 inches long and only 1/2 to 3/4 of an inch wide. The leaf margins roll under and the entire leaf has a downward curve. New growth appears in mid to late summer and is densely covered with soft white or tan indumentum that gives the whole plant a silvery appearance. This indumentum lasts for several weeks on the upper side of the leaves, eventually wearing off to become bright green. The indumentum on the underside of the leaves slowly turns a wooly tan or light brown.

The trusses on *R.makinoi* are usually filled with about 10 or 15 two-inch funnel shaped flowers. The flowers range in color from a soft rose through clear shades of pink to white and are sometimes speckled with crimson spots.

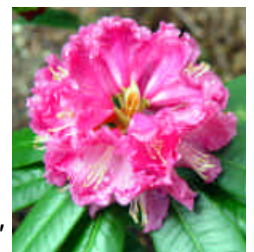
R. makinoi will grow in sun or part shade in our coastal climate and should be given sharp drainage. *R. makinoi* is a plant that will give you year around pleasure as it sits proudly in your garden.

Everett Hall, Vice President



R. 'Mrs. Furnivall'

By the Sea, the 23rd
**American Rhododendron Society
Western Regional Conference**
Seaside, Oregon - October 2 - 5, 2003
See the next issue of the *Journal American Rhododendron
Society* for details.



R. 'Ink Spot'

Dear Dr. Rhody,

At our last chapter meeting you encouraged all members to become involved in our shows and bring at least one of our trusses to each show. I would like to enter some of my flowers, but I'm not sure how to go about it. What do I need to do and how can I present my flowers in the best manner?

"Curious"

Dear "Curious",

I'm very pleased that we created some interest in entering flowers in our show. The two shows we have each year are the stage we use to show the public just how wonderful rhododendrons are. Our chapter invites everyone, member and non-members, to enter our shows. The greater the diversity and the larger the number of trusses, the better the show.

You need to learn how to select, groom, and present your truss. There are basically three types of entries in our show:

1. Azaleas - These may be a truss (single bud) or a spray (multiple buds and even multiple branches).
2. Lepidote rhododendrons - (generally small leafed) truss or spray.
3. Elepidote rhododendrons - (large leafed) truss only.

There is still plenty of time for you to get ready to select your entry. Look at your plants. Observe which have nice flower buds and nice leaves. Begin to choose possible entries. As the time for the April show approaches, see which of your plants are beginning to bloom. Look at the buds, see if color is indicating they are about to open. Refine your possible list of entries to those that will be ready.

Some people go to great lengths to protect possible entries from our wild spring weather. Umbrellas, plastic bags, and other devices have been used to protect trusses.

I believe the perfect time to cut your truss is the day before the show. We accept entries from 7 until 9 am on the first day (Saturday) of our show. It's much easier to select and groom your flowers casually the day before the show than it is to try and do it early in the morning. If the weather indicates possible hail or severe wind it is sometimes wise to cut flowers even earlier and store them in a cool location.

As you select your truss observe the leaves. You want no bug bites or burned leaves, generally as little damage as possible. The flower should be on a straight stem for best presentation. Usually these will be found on the top of the plants. The flower buds should be mostly open. Some flowers open gradually with buds and open flowers on the same truss. The judges understand this and are instructed to overlook a couple of partially opened buds. Since we have a two-day show there is a better chance of a flower looking good on the second day if it is just beginning to be fully open when you select it.

Choose a truss that has the best collar of leaves supporting the flower. Ideally the leaves would form a complete circle.

If your selection will be a spray there are other considerations. In our show a spray may be only 16" by 16" and anything larger will be disqualified. The spray you select needs to be pleasing to the eye, to have a nice presentation, and to have most of the flowers open.

After you have selected your entry, grooming is necessary to make your plant look as good as possible. Clean all leaves and remove dirt, pollen, and debris with a moist rag. DO NOT polish the leaves. Flower buds have hard bracts that loosen as the bud opens. Remove the hard bracts using fingers or tweezers, but be careful of the flowers as you do this.

Remove extra leaves - there should be only one year's leaves surrounding your truss. If you have a spray that has some dead leaves or flowers remove them. Generally make your entry look as good as possible.

If you have an entry tag use our show schedule or key to find which class your entry will be in. Write the name of the plant, the class, your name and address on the card. Place the card over the container. The display racks we use will hold many different containers. Our first choice would be a Frappachino (coffee) container. Our second choice is a pop can.

The container should be filled with water. Some believe that warm water is absorbed more quickly and helps to make the flowers more turgid. Now re-cut the stem and smash the stem, or cut it vertically to make it easier for the truss to absorb water. Insert the truss in the container, and place the entry in a safe place. Bring it to the show between 7 and 9 am Saturday, April 5th.

Should you bring an entry that is not the "very best"? Yes! There are many times when an entry that is not "perfect" wins a ribbon. If only perfect flowers were entered, we would have a very poor show. Bring as many flowers as you can. Present them as well as you can and join us in celebrating the beauty and wonder of rhododendrons.

Dr. Rhody



R. macrophyllum photographed March 27, 2003. Not for the early show, but a sure sign of spring.



Upcoming Rhododendron Events

April 5 - 6, 2003

Early Rhododendron Show
Siuslaw Chapter ARS
Florence, Oregon

April 12, 2003

Early Rhododendron Show
Eugene Chapter ARS
Eugene, Oregon

April 12 - 13, 2003

Rhododendron Show
Southwestern Chapter ARS
Pony Village Mall
North Bend, Oregon

May 1 - 4, 2003

ARS Annual Convention
Olympia, Washington

May 17 - 18, 2003

Siuslaw Chapter Rhododendron Show
Rhododendron Festival
Florence, Oregon

October 2 - 5, 2003

ARS Western Regional Conference
Seaside, Oregon

We Need Your Help!

Gallagher's Park, located on the NW corner of Spruce St. and Highway 126 in Florence, is the site of Siuslaw Chapter work parties at 10 am on the last Saturday of each month.

Secretary's Report: March 11, 2003 Siuslaw Chapter ARS Board Meeting

- Thanks to our "on the ball" treasurer, Sandi Huffman, we have paid 1 full year for our storage unit, which in turn gives us 1 free month of usage!
- There will be a work party at Gallagher's Park, Saturday, March 29th at 10:00 am.
- Jeannie Shields will be reporting at the next general meeting on the Development Fund survey that was taken. She has some exciting information for you. She is now accepting checks for this fund.
- Want an updated membership list? Mike Bones will be handing out lists once a year but you can get that information any time you choose by going on line to <http://www.arsoffice.org>. Enter the site by giving the user name *siuslaw* and password *youpii9*.
- Dinner before the April meeting will be at the Firehouse Restaurant.
- Interested in spring garden tours of our local gardens? See any board member about this! We'd love to have someone organize this for us.
- The Contest held during the 2003 Rhododendron Festival will be for Florence city residences in the area we call the Southeast Sector. The SE Sector is the area south of 18th street, east of Highway 101 and bordered by the Siuslaw River on the south and east. For the next 4 years different sectors of Florence will be the focus of the contest.
- The early show is coming up fast. Jim Smith will have schedules and keys available at the next meeting. Everett Hall will have classification cards for you, too.

Kathy Bones, Secretary

Recent issues of the ARS Siuslaw Chapter newsletter *Macrophyllum* may be accessed at:

<http://www.oregonfast.net/~jpwilson/SiuslawARS>

Other interesting, useful information on rhododendrons is to be found at these net sites!

American Rhododendron Society:

<http://www.rhododendron.org>

Rhododendron & Azalea News:

<http://www.rhododendron.org/news/home.htm>

Eugene Chapter, ARS:

<http://www.eugene-chapter-ars.org>

Rhododendron Species Foundation:

<http://www.rhodygarden.org/index.html>

Oregon State University:

<http://www.osu.orst.edu/dept/hort/dpd/index.htm>