



# Macrophyllum

April 2007

Newsletter of the  
**Siuslaw Chapter**  
**American Rhododendron Society**  
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## UPCOMING Chapter Events

**Meeting Topic- Harold Greer will be the speaker this month. Don't miss it!**

**Chapter Meeting** – the April meeting is on the 17<sup>th</sup> at 7PM at the Presbyterian Church on Hwy 101.

**Dinner** -this month will be at Hickery's BBQ at 5:00 pm. Contact Eileen McKinney for reservations (541) 997-2222 or [egmc@charter.net](mailto:egmc@charter.net). The menu choices are broiled salmon, chicken, top sirloin steak, or baby back ribs. Please contact Eileen with your choice because she needs to give a menu count ahead of time. Seating is limited so call Eileen right away!

**Words for the Month**- Don't forget that if you had words of the month for March get your definition for the word you received done and ready for the April meeting. You can use pictures, drawings or whatever helps you get the point across!

**Gallagher Park Work Party** – Thursday 4/19/07 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. The park is at the corner of Spruce and Hwy 126. Gene Cockeram- City of Florence Park & Recreation Committee.

**Cookie Team**- Judy Johnson; Sandi Hennig, Jean Gottschalk, Jerry Nordin

**Garden Tour**- April 25<sup>th</sup> will be the first spring tour. See page two for information.

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT By: Mike Bones**

This is a great time of year for Rhododendron enthusiasts. Every day a different Rhododendron is showing color. It kind of reminds me of when I was a youngster and outside looking for the Easter eggs that my Mother would hide; the hint of yellow, orange or red within a green plant. What a surprise it was to find one. We now have more colors of Rhododendrons and Azaleas than the colors of the eggs from years ago.

The Rubellos have lined up a nice array of local gardens for us to view this spring. Be sure to join in the special camaraderie of these gatherings that are so special to the Siuslaw Chapter. Harold Greer, past American Rhododendron Society President and owner of the world famous Greer Gardens in Eugene will be our guest speaker this month. This will be another one of those great meetings that you will not want to miss.

Some of the Rhododendrons that Dr Gerdemann (from Yachats) hybridized and donated to Gallagher's Rhododendron Park are blooming and smell so nice. Take a stroll through the park and come out to help clean up during our work party on April 19th. It's clean up time outside; little dead branches need to be cut off, pinch some of the single new growth to make your plants bushier for next year, fertilize and enjoy your Rhododendrons and Azaleas.

## Rhody Club 2007 Garden Tours!!

Come join us on **April 25 at 9:00 am** at True Value Parking Lot. Our first tour is to Jim & Sylvia's Roadside Nursery. Here is where you'll see an extensive array of hybrids all of which are the creation of Jim & Sylvia's hard work. Their nursery is the producer of the areas finest hybrids and species plants – This is not your “run of the mill” nursery. Following this tour we will have lunch and then proceed to Don & Jeanne's garden. Don & Jeanne have created one of the largest and finest private gardens on the coast.

On **May 5th** we will tour Bones Nursery. When you tour this Nursery/Garden you'll find a combination of hybrids and species. Many of the hybrids are the creation of Mike's tireless energies. We'll pause for lunch then on to Bob & Marianne Horney's garden. Here we'll see how, on a small plot of land, we can still have a Rhody Garden.

During **Rhody Festival Weekend** we will have garden tours on Saturday, Sunday, and Monday. We have five member gardens open for guided tours and self-guided tours plus Gallagher's Park. More information will follow. We also have tours planned as follows:

**June** – Greer Nursery and Hendricks' Park in Eugene

**July** – Thompson Nursery

**December** – Annual trip to Shore Acres for Holiday Lights

Rosemary & Tony 541-997-6167 tonyrosemary@charter.net

### **SECRETARY'S REPORT By: Kathy Bones**

The count down has commenced to the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Rhododendron Festival! The float committee is excitedly gearing up for some work to start on our float and if you haven't signed up yet to help, call Jerry Nordin 997-1241. Ribbons are being ordered that will commemorate the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Special mugs have been ordered to sell. Chances can be purchased on a gorgeous rhody quilt.

We don't want to forget that the early show, April 14-15, is coming first! Sign-up sheets for jobs like hospitality, clerking, recording, set-up, take down, and plant sales have already started going around. If you missed signing up and want to, call a board member and they will direct you to the right person. Any questions about bringing trusses to the show, call Jim Smith, Mike Bones or Gene Cockeram. They know everything!!

Gallagher's Park may have a new name soon. The Garden Club and the Mayor have agreed with our Chapter that the park should be renamed Gallagher's Rhododendron Park and be officially a rhododendron park. This is in process, but will take time!

For your information, Pete Peterson has made arrangements with the Adobe Motel in Yachats for discounted rooms during Rhody weekend. Just mention the ARS to receive the discount.

It has come to my attention that the information I passed on to you last month about Western Regional Conferences occurring every other year is not a hard and fast rule but a suggestion. Our District Director, Ann Gross, has informed us that although the ARS did suggest fewer conferences, it is our choice as to whether or not we follow that suggestion. Right now all we need is a Chapter or people to step forward and volunteer to host the convention. When that happens, I'll let you know!

Flowers are popping out everywhere and a drive around town is so exciting! Don't stay in the house just because it's raining! Get out and go see the blooms!



**'Grace Seabrook'**



**'Taurus'**

In the February 2007 *Macrophyllum* these two hybrids, offspring of the same parents, were compared with the aid of the plants growing on the East Side of Benny's Café. The minor differences between the two hybrids pointed out by most sources are the slightly slower rate of growth of 'Grace Seabrook' and the colors of the truss and leaf buds. Those of the 'Taurus' are red and those of "Grace Seabrook" are green.

Both of the hybrids are now in bloom and one would be hard-pressed to detect differences in the trusses. Facilitated by multiple examples of both hybrids at this location, it is evident that the 'Taurus' trusses open slightly after those of 'Grace Seabrook.' Initially, this difference in blooming time in our own garden was thought to have come from differences in the locations of the plants.

Have a look at these plants in the next few weeks. Apart from being beautiful, they offer an unusual opportunity for comparison. You can still readily identify the two hybrids because the unopened leaf buds retain their distinctive colors.

*('Taurus', an excellent performer in our area, was discussed by Mike Bones in the October 2006 Macrophyllum. Visit our website at <http://siuslawars.org/> to read this article.)*

[Editor's Note: This page was created by Charles King.]

## Dear Dr. Rhody

I have several old plants that have been in place for 6-7 years. All of them used to look deep green and healthy. They now have yellow leaves with dark green veins. I put Epsom Salts on them last year but it has not improved the situation. All of them, with the exception of one, are growing in loamy soil that has good drainage. I'm wondering if I should dig them out and put wood chips in to amend the soil.

Thanks,  
Vicki Osis

Dear Vicki,

The conditions you describe, "yellow leaves with green veins" is characteristic of a condition called chlorosis. This condition is frequently caused by not enough iron. There are products on the market which will help. Actino-Iron is a spray on application of iron that can be absorbed by the plant. A fertilizer that contains soluble iron in its formula can also help. Harold Greer indicates that sometimes this condition can be caused by damage due to root weevil grubs or in some cases even root death due to a very high level of fertilizer. It sounds as if you have good drainage so root rot is probably not the cause. Sometimes the PH of the soil actually prohibits the intake of iron. Unfortunately, I can give you no definitive answer to your dilemma. Good luck in finding your remedy.

Dr. Rhody



Rhododendron-  
Blue Diamond

Visit the ARS website to learn more about this lovely specimen.

[www.rhododendron.org](http://www.rhododendron.org)

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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:

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- 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.