



Macrophyllum

APRIL 2010 Happy 40th Anniversary Siuslaw Chapter!

Newsletter of the
Siuslaw Chapter
American Rhododendron Society
Post Office Box 1701
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UPCOMING Chapter Events

Meeting Topic- Early Flower Show preparation

Chapter Meeting – We will see you on Tuesday, April 20 at 6:30 p.m. for refreshments and meeting starts at 6:45 p.m. at the Presbyterian Church, 3996 Hwy 101 N in Florence. Pre-meeting dinner will be at the Aztlan at 5:00 p.m. Contact Rosemary Rebello for reservations (541) 997-6167 or tonyrosemery@charter.net

Gallagher Park Work Party – Wednesday, April 21, 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- Debbie Drefschinski, Nancy Fullmer, Sandi Hennig, Jenny Velinty

Early Flower Show- is this month, April 24/25 at the Florence Events Center.

Rhody Festival Flower Show- May 22/23 at the Florence Events Center.

June Picnic- is Sunday, June 6 at the Honeyman State Park Yurt.

Notice to membership- the May 1 newsletter issue will be the last for this season. Your editor is going to France for a month and will combine news for June into the May 1 issue.

A IS FOR APRIL

Rhododendron *aequabile*

The height of this orange beauty is 4m – mostly terrestrial. The leaves are elliptic 9 x 4 cm with bronze scaly covering on new growth. The flowers are campanulate – 4cm – up to 18 per umbel. This species is located in Sumatra: Mts. Singalang, Kerintji & Pesagi – 2300 to 2870 meters. The epithet is uniform.



A website called [cloudjungle.com](http://www.cloudjungle.com) gave this bit of biographical information about *aequabile*:

“Although small, this is a beautiful shrub of the *albovireya* group. Although mostly

terrestrial, it is occasionally found as an epiphyte. Bronze, scales cover the new growth, and the leaves are elliptic, 10 centimeters long and 5 centimeters wide. Terminating the branches are broad, orange, and campanulate blooms with black stamens forming a circle in the centre. Each flower grows to 4 centimeters long, and is arranged in umbels of about twelve. If we wish to have a more compact plant, prune new growth in summer. Although propagation can be achieved by seed, it is mostly done by cuttings or layering in summer. The plant is indigenous to Mts. Singalang, Kerintji, and Pesagi montane forests in Sumatra, Indonesia.” You can visit this website at:

<http://www.cloudjungle.com/epibook/Epacrid.html>



Happy 40th Anniversary!

That's right, folks! It's our 40th anniversary this month. Kathy Bones dug out this historical perspective about the chapter at its 25th anniversary...

Excerpt from what was written in 1995-

The main purpose of this organization is to promote and educate people about the genus rhododendron. For many years, people from the Florence area, interested in "rhodys," drove 70 miles to Eugene for meetings. **On April 7, 1970, the National Board of the American Rhododendron Society approved the name Siuslaw which started the Florence chapter.** In May, 1970, Dr. DeVern Pinnock was elected first president with Kay Hutchison as secretary. The first meeting was a slide show of rhodys and azaleas by Lone Reed, a feature writer for the Eugene Register Guard. In March, 1971, Agnes McCornack received the chapter's first Bronze Award which is for outstanding work in the rhododendron field. Receiving this high honor since then have been (in order) Galen Baxter, Gene and Doris Cockeram, Vern and Marion May, Willard and Margaret Thompson, Thursten Skei, and Helen Baxter.

The Rhododendron Flower Show, currently held during Florence Rhody Days, originally started in 1971 and was held in the Siuslaw Valley Bank. As the show outgrew its space, it was transferred to Lane Community College's Skills Center, then to Oregon Pacific Bank, and is presently in the Bromley Room of the Siuslaw Public Library. Throughout the years many people and groups have donated time and materials for the Rhododendron Flower Show. Among those are the Florence Garden Club, the Eugene Rhododendron Chapter, the [Siuslaw] Middle School shop class by constructing the display stands from plywood donated by International Paper, the [Siuslaw] High School typing class that published the show programs, and Bowhan Nursery by supplying the vases for the award winning flower trusses. The show signs were contributed by the Pinnock family and Bones Nursery. Trophies for the winning trusses have been donated by the Florence Business Community since the first flower show and are graciously continuing this tradition today. What started out as a once a year flower show has grown to two shows, an early show in April and our regular show held during Rhody Days. Flower entries have also grown from approximately 20 to over 500 flower trusses on display.

One of the purposes of the chapter was to establish a public native rhododendron (*Macrophyllum*) garden. In 1911, land on the corner of Highway 126 and Spruce Street was donated to the City of Florence for a park by A.E. and Irene Gallagher. In February 1974, Whalley Nursery of Troutdale, Oregon donated 135 plants for this park. Chapter members took two days to dig up these plants which were then brought to Florence by Oceanway Transport. They were temporarily put next to the Florence water tower while chips donated by Murphy Vaneer were hauled in. They weren't watered much and that summer many of the plants died or were stolen. Then in March 1975 the first walks were marked out and some rhododendrons planted. A Memorial Azalea Garden is located at the main entrance of the park and is maintained by the Florence Garden Club. The City of Florence has installed signs, a sprinkling system, and paved walkways and they continue to cut brush which opens more area for planting. Gallagher Park, which it has been named, is a long term continuous project the Rhododendron Society is committed to keeping enjoyable for the public.



Happy Anniversary Siuslaw Chapter...



Gerdemann Botanical Preserve

Call to Schedule a Guided Tour
Through the 3.5 acre Private Garden
Available Thursday through Sunday
March through August

Editor's Note: This is a wonderful opportunity to take a leisurely drive up the Oregon Coast on Highway 101 to

*the Preserve. As Editor, I am always looking for spots we can visit and appreciate because of their beauty and nearness to Florence. Kathleen and Jerry Sand have lovingly continued The Gerdemann's legacy and, as members of our chapter, it is a pleasure to see their endeavor thrive! **They will have a slightly different schedule coming out later for fall tours in 2010.***

You may catch the scent of 'Else Frye', see a Telopia from Australia in bloom or if you come early in the season, view a carpet of Pink Fawn Lilies. Mature botanical specimens include over 700 rhododendrons, and 400+ unusual trees and shrubs nestled within native coastal woodland. A living legacy, the outdoor laboratory of Dr. J.W. Gerdemann was created from 1981 to 2007.

The private property is protected and preserved under a conservation easement. No dogs, please. Charitable contributions are gratefully accepted to help maintain the trails and collections for future generations.



Call Owners, Jerry and Kathleen Sand
For More Information or
To Schedule a Tour Date and Time:
541-547-5143



Images and text provided by Kathleen and Jerry Sand, with exception of Editor's Note.

SOUTHWESTERN CHAPTER FLOWER SHOW IN APRIL

Editor's Note: Our sister chapter in North Bend puts on a flower show each year that is wonderful to see. Plus, you get the added pleasure of taking a drive down the lush and beautiful Highway 101 south from Florence at spring time. Don't miss this great event the week before our own Siuslaw Chapter Florence Early Flower Show!

Southwestern Oregon Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society will present its annual judged rhododendron show on April 17 and 18 at Pony Village Mall in North Bend, Oregon. We welcome your presence and entries. Ribbons and trophies will be awarded. All entries must be brought to the mall between the hours of 7:00 a.m. until 9:00 a.m. on the 17th. The show will open as soon as the judging is completed and remain open until 5:00 p.m. On April 18 the show will open at 12:00 noon and remain open until 4:00 p.m. The show will also include a large plant sale. For further information please contact Pete Baumer 541-396-3528 or cbaumer@harborside.com or Ann Drake 541-396-2718 or rhodyduck@yahoo.com.

Tips-- How to Show Your Entry

The Siuslaw Chapter has tips and guidelines on how to enter a winning truss or spray. A "truss" is the flower grouping coming from one bud with this year's growth of rhododendron flowers and leaves. A good truss has a straight stem and foliage framing the flowers. A "spray" is a series of flower groupings coming from multiple buds on a stem. The spray cannot be larger than 16" high by 16" wide. The measurements are taken from the top of the container holding the spray.

The best time to pick trusses from the garden is very early Saturday morning or late on Friday afternoon before the show. Trusses should be immediately placed in water. A soft drink can is an easy temporary container; fill about half full of water and have a decent length of stem to insert into the can. Your entry will be transferred to a sturdier container at the show. If picked Friday afternoon, the trusses should be stored in a cool place overnight. Flowers in the truss should be open, free of blemishes, and as near to their peak as possible.

Leaves should be in good condition, free of bug bites, holes and blemishes. The Leaves should be clean and no artificial shining or waxing of the leaves is allowed. Also, leaves are not allowed to be trimmed. Trusses and sprays are judged against other trusses and sprays in that category or "class" and should represent the attributes of that particular plant variety.

There are some show rules that must be followed. The plant must have been in the exhibitor's yard for at least six months prior to entering in the show and must have been primarily cared for by the exhibitor. An exhibitor may enter only one truss or spray of a single variety and not more than one exhibitor can enter exhibits of the same variety grown in the same location (family members are considered to be one exhibitor).



For the Siuslaw Chapter Early Flower Show- your entries can be brought to the Florence Events Center Saturday morning between 7am and 9am. You are urged to have your entries turned in as early as possible that morning before the judging begins.

SECRETARY'S REPORT By: Kathy Bones

Chapter Contacts

We hope you are all enjoying your blooming rhodies right now or at least getting excited about the buds beginning to swell with color! The early show is coming up fast and is expected to be outstanding!

The board has been looking into the possibility of being credit card friendly at the early show, the May show and the October Convention. It was decided we could offer this service so spread the word.

We have now purchased a new PA system to help with being able to hear any speaker we may have at the meetings. We hope the new system will be up and running by the March meeting. Thanks to Bill Johnson for his research and purchasing of this product for the chapter.

There is now a new service for your convenience provided by the Chapter. You can get a reminder phone call about the meeting a few days ahead of the appointed time. If you didn't get one and would like a call, tell a board member. The list of board members is found here in the newsletter.

Information about the early show will appear on the Honeyman Nursery and Roby's Furniture reader boards.

The Chapter chose Monday, April 26 – Friday, April 30 for a day to be decided on to visit the Hinsdale Estate. Gordon Wylie will be contacted with this choice.

Gallagher's Park needs more clean-up work. Gene and his crew's work parties are the Wednesdays after the meeting. Everyone is encouraged to help with this ongoing project.

The next board meeting is April 13, 7:00 PM at Bones'.

Next Month's Issue...

1. Better Roots for Rhodos; from Avante Gardener & Shirley Wilson
2. June and August 2010 picnic(s) information
3. Info about where to register for the Western Regional Conference
4. Preview of next season's history of Florence and the Rhododendron Festival

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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.