



Macrophyllum

APRIL 2011

IN MEMORY OF SHIRLEY HALL

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

WEBSITE: <http://www.siuslawars.org>

Paul Wilson, Webmaster- (541) 902-9780, rhodylover@mac.com

UPCOMING Chapter Events

Meeting Topic- Jack Olson, secrets of showing good trusses!

Chapter Meeting – This month's meeting will be on Tuesday, April 19 at 7:00 pm. Meet at the Presbyterian Church, 3996 Hwy 101 N in Florence. Dinner before the meeting will be held at both Riley's and the Beachcomber due to the size of the group. You will need to contact Rosemary Rebello for you reservation preference (541) 997-6167 or tonyroosemary@charter.net

Gallagher Park Work Party – Wednesday the 20th from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. The park is at the corner of Spruce and Hwy 126. Gene Cockeram- City Park Commissioner. flowerman@q.com

Gardening On The Edge- Saturday, June 25 from 9:00am-5:00pm at the Newport Intermediate (Middle) School. Read the article on page 3 in this issue of the Macrophyllum.

Early Flower Show- April 9-10 at the FEC.

Rhody Festival Flower Show- May 21-22 at the FEC.

Cookie Team- Jenny Velinty, Sandi Hennig, Sandi Jensen, Phyllis Dickson

Dan's Delight - YAKUSHIMANUM *Yaku Angel*

This crisp and perfectly white flower stands out in any garden. The seed parent x pollen parent is: *degronianum* ssp *yakushimanum* clone.

Yaku Angel is a low growing hybrid that reaches a height of about 2 feet in ten years of growth. The bloom time is Midseason and the cold hardiness temperature listing is -15°F (-26°C).

The plant description is as follows: the flower is openly campanulate, 2" across, white with faint brown dorsal spotting; held in ball-shaped trusses of 13-17 flowers. The leaves are narrowly lanceolate, acute apex, cuneate base, 4" long, deep green with tan indumentum, retained for 3 years; new growth is white tomentose. The plant grows wider than tall.

This is an Elepidote and the registration no. is ARS 763.



Photo by Eleanor Philp

(Read about Yakushimanum's history on the last page of this issue.)

Flower Show Awards Supporter Form

Siuslaw Chapter ARS
2011 Early Show

One of the best ways to encourage community participation in the early flower show is to present awards in as many categories as possible. Through your generous support, those lucky award winners would really appreciate the recognition, as we see on their smiling faces each year.

Would you like to be a supporter for the awards categories at the early flower show? The chapter would really appreciate your donation toward the purchase of awards. Please fill out this form and send it with your check to the Siuslaw Chapter ARS, PO Box 1701, Florence, OR 97439.

Yes, sign me up as a flower show **supporter for a \$15 donation**. Please indicate whether you would like your name listed as the award donor. You are welcome to contribute more if you choose.

Name _____ (please print)

Yes, please list my name as the award donor.

Thank you!

GARDENING ON THE EDGE

NEWPORT OREGON

Just want to let you know that we have set the date for the 2011 Oregon Coast Gardening & Landscaping Expo. It will be on Saturday, June 25 from 9:00am-5:00pm at the Newport Intermediate (Middle) School again. And just a reminder that you will again have a seminar session this time on propagation!

You will be joining Ed Hume along with Ciscoe Morris from Seattle and the Northwest Cable News channel so we expect a good crowd. Also, I will reserve your free vendor spot again for the ARS. What a nice group you bring every year!

Hope you are well and have a great fall! I'll be in touch. Thank you very much!

Jim Myers
Executive Producer
Oregon Coast Gardening & Landscaping
Expo
541-270-0892
gardenexpo@oregoncoastgardeningexpo.com
<http://oregoncoastgardeningexpo.com>

Cecil & Molly Smith Garden

The Cecil and Molly Smith Garden, world renowned for its collection of species and hybrid rhododendrons, will be open during the blooming season, Saturdays and Sundays, April 2nd through May 22nd, 11:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. This three-acre natural woodland setting also features choice trees, shrubs, wildflowers, and bulbs, including Cyclamen, Trillium, Erythronium and Narcissus which complement the over 600 rhododendrons and azaleas.

Established in the early 1950's, the garden contains many rare species grown by Cecil Smith from seeds imported from China and cuttings from England, as well as hybrids he developed. The Portland Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society purchased the garden in 1983 and, along with the Willamette and Tualatin Valley Chapters, now manages and maintains it.

A selection of plants, featured in the garden, is available for purchase. There is a modest admission fee of \$3.00. Due to the sloping site the garden is not considered handicap accessible. The garden is located at 5065 Raybell Road, St. Paul, Oregon, 7/10ths of a mile west of Highway 219 between St. Paul and Newberg. Turn west on Champoeg Road (look for the blue Heirloom Roses sign) and continue straight on to Raybell Road to the garden. Parking and entrance are on the right just past the house with the garden address.

For more information, call Ginny Mapes at 503-647-2896 or see <http://www.smithgarden.org> This spring, don't miss this hidden gem which has been featured in Horticulture magazine and several television programs.

LANDSCAPE FABRIC – To Use or Not To Use... That is the question!

I was reading the latest copy of *Fine Gardening* magazine and an article caught my eye about landscape fabric. You know that stuff... you've driven by a garden that hasn't been maintained very well and noticed this stuff sticking up out of the ground and showing in spots that haven't been covered with bark or mulch. Well, there are positive and negative points about this product so I decided to investigate! One website I found had a good article showing the pros and cons of landscape fabric; just what you could use to determine whether it is a product you might want to use in your garden. <http://www.suite101.com/content/using-landscape-fabric-a3541>. There are also more articles on this website about how to decide if landscape fabric is a product you want to use.

Landscape fabrics, also called geo-textiles, are used as weed barriers and erosion control. They are usually composed of a synthetic such as polypropylene, and can be perforated, woven, nonwoven or spun-bonded. It is important to understand the characteristics and limitations of landscape fabric before choosing to use or not use it for a project.

On the **positive** side-

Landscape fabrics permit air and water movement into the soil; help control weeds; and help maintain even soil temperatures. Landscape fabrics are practical and may be used for large areas such as: shrub and ornamental flower beds where there is definite spacing between plants - for instance, ornamental grasses, daylilies and Rudbeckia that are not expected to spread; around trees; under stone sidewalks; under decks; behind retaining walls; and under large expanses of stone and mulch-decorated natural areas where the intention is to achieve a "Japanese garden sort of look."

On the **negative** side-

They are expensive as compared to sheet plastic (black plastic) mulch; photo-degrade (break down in the presence of UV light); usually need mulch cover to slow photo-degradation and improve appearance of fabric-covered areas; and only last approximately 5 years.

The worst aspect of using landscape fabric is forgetting that it is only a barrier that prevents germinating weed seeds from emerging from soil into landscaped areas. Seeds will land and germinate in both organic (wood chips) and inorganic (stones) mulches covering the fabric. Fine feeder roots from these germinating seeds easily penetrate these porous fabrics. The unpleasant result of neglecting to remove volunteer seedlings is a weed / mulch / landscape fabric sandwich firmly attached to underlying soil.

An often-overlooked characteristic of landscape fabrics is that they are effective for only about five years before breaking down and needing replacement. In addition, mulch settles and in situations like on slopes, this settling causes shift and sometimes movement of mulch leaving large patches of fabric showing. Landscape fabrics are not an "install once and forget" method of landscape maintenance. However, when used properly, there is definitely an acceptable benefit for using these fabrics in landscape maintenance. So much so, that each year more types and sources become available in both commercial and pre-cut residential sizes.

Using Landscape Fabrics Effectively

Landscape fabrics are not an "install once and forget" method of landscape maintenance. The advantages and disadvantages of using landscape fabric for each specific project should be well thought out.

-How can you use landscape fabrics effectively?

-Best choices are projects where erosion, weed and pest control are essential.

-Best plants are ones with characteristics for the project.

-Success is achieved by correctly installing landscape fabric.

-Erosion control works where we find loose soil and thin vegetation on gently sloping land (a 5-to-10-foot incline within 100-feet); runoff of surface water; or habitual human or animal foot traffic.

-Weed control succeeds where landscape plants are consistent in growth year after year - such as a hedgerow of Thuja (arborvitae) or Taxus (yew) cultivars; maintain a spreading habit rather than growing by runners (above ground stems) or

rhizomes (underground stems) - for instance, *Juniperus procumbens* (low-growing juniper) or *Hemerocallis* (daylily) cultivars; and produce few if any viable seeds which may germinate in camouflaging mulch - such as cultivars of *Cotoneaster*, *Viburnum*, *Potentilla* (five-finger cinquefoil) or *Hypericum* (St.-John's-wort).

-Pest control does well when pests are small and like to dig - such as cats, squirrels or skunks; the area is small and confined such as a patio or decorative planter; and large rock mulch over fabric is appropriate and looks good.

Some examples of plants with consistent growing characteristics that suit them for landscape fabric projects are:

-Shrubs which spread slowly, require minimal pruning and have a moderately long life - such as, *Hydrangea* spp., *Kolkwitzia amabilis* (beauty bush), *Erica* spp. (heath) and modern hybrid shrub roses.

-Trees which are shapely and slow-growing, and that function as background or focal points - for instance, *Acer griseum* (paperbark maple), *Malus hupehensis* (flowering crab apple), *Sorbus aucuparia* (mountain ash), or *Robinia pseudoacacia* 'Frisia' (golden-leaf false acacia / locust).

-Hedges made up of plants that are easy to establish and grow - such as, *Acer campestre* (field maple), *Ilex* spp. (American or English holly), and *Buxus* spp. (English or Korean boxwood).

-Groundcovers, both woody and herbaceous, which are relatively low and clump-forming to knit a dense carpet from their spreading tops (rather than quickly spreading runners and rhizomes) - for example, *Epimedium* spp., *Lonicera pileata* (low honeysuckle), *Bergenia* cultivars, *Calluna vulgaris* (heather) varieties, and *Lavendula* (lavender) dwarf forms.

In Memory of Shirley Hall – March 15, 2011

Shirley lost her battle with cancer. Thankfully, she was not in pain and her children have been with her almost constantly. She often talked about the wonderful life she had and was prepared for her passing. If you would like to send cards, her children's addresses are:

Carol and Bob Alferts
347 Hawthorn Street
Eugene 97404

Greg and Sue Hall
247 Knoop Lane
Eugene 97404

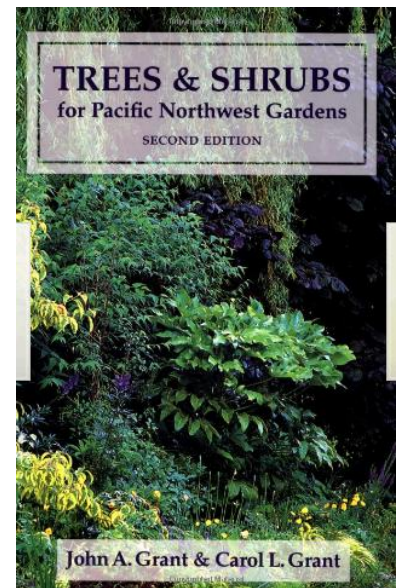
BOOK OF THE MONTH CHOICE FOR APRIL

John A. and Carol L. Grant have written a comprehensive book that is sure to please any western Oregon gardener; published by Timber Press. Here is a snippet of the introduction to their book...

“The Pacific Northwest has a climate all its own. Its gardening needs are unique. In 1943, when the original edition of this book was published, no comprehensive book had been written about garden plants for this region. By this region we mean the natural geographic and climatic unit which includes southwestern British Columbia, western Washington, western Oregon, northwestern California, and by extension, eastern Washington and Oregon. Our aim is to provide Northwest gardeners with information on the best trees and shrubs for use in our region, in keeping with the three criteria set forth in the original edition, while incorporating the results of 45 additional years of growing and testing woody plant materials under Northwest conditions.”

Siuslaw Rhody Chapter *member* price: \$14.00

This book will be available to purchase at the April chapter meeting.



Editor's Corner:

Learning about the history or evolution of anything can be quite interesting. I ran across some information about our plant of the month that I want to share with you... a bit of history for you!

Yakushimanum was first described by Japanese botanist T. Naki in 1920. T. Naki was a professor of botany at the University of Tokyo (Imperial University) between 1920 and 1921. A colleague, Japanese botanist and nurseryman Dr. Wada, was contacted by Lionel de Rothschild. He requested plants of unusual character and high quality. Mr. Wada sent two plants by ship to England, one of which was yakushimanum.

This species was found only on Yaku Shima, one of the Osumi Islands off the southern tip of Japan. The highest point of the island is 6,360 ft. It is covered in dense forest noted especially for old growth cryptomeria trees, known as Sugi in Japan, and magnificent rhododendrons. Yaku Shima's unique remnant of a warm-temperate ancient forest is a natural World Heritage Site designated in 1993. Yaku Shima is Japan's wettest spot with precipitation one of the world's highest at 4,000 to 10,000 mm.

Here are two websites I found that continue the story about the island and also about the evolution of the plant.

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yakushima>

<http://scholar.lib.vt.edu/ejournals/JARS/v19n2/v19n2-serbin.htm>

This site takes you to *The ARS Journal* from April 1965 (Vol, 19, No. 2) to read a paper delivered to the New York Chapter of the ARS by A. F. Serbin, M.D., Bloomfield, Conn.

History is the backbone of our lives. To move forward with confidence we must look backward to learn and gain wisdom from our forefathers. Besides, it is amazing to learn about people who dedicated their lives to the study and propagation of the beautiful plants we now enjoy in our gardens.

Enjoy!

Chapter Contacts

President: Bill Hennig
(541) 997-2489
just1more@g.com

Vice President: Dan Bones
(541) 999-4614

Secretary: Judy Johnson
(541)997-4203
billnjudy4@charter.net

Treasurer: Nancy Fullmer
(541) 997-7579
nfullmer05@msn.com

Board Members:
Mike Bones- Past President
(541) 997-3082
rhodies@charter.net
Merilee Mulvey
(541) 997-8025
gmulvey@oregonfast.net
Sandi Hennig
(541) 997-2489
fiendish@q.com
Sharon Samuelson
(541) 902-1954
cvsams@msn.com

Book Chairperson:
Ron Sjogren
541-997-1957

Newsletter Editor & Distribution:
Merilee Mulvey
(541) 997-8025
gmulvey@oregonfast.net

Membership; Hospitality:
Sandi Hennig
(541) 997-2489
fiendish@q.com

Show Chairman:
Chapter Board- early show
Jim Smith- late show

Historian:
Debbie Drechinski
(541) 997-8376
No email

Publicity:
Jenny Velinty
(541) 997-7573
jenvel@harborside.com

Store (clothing):
Cheryl Prchal
(541) 902-7637
rhodyholic@msn.com

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.