



Macrophyllum

December 2002

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

Dear Dr. Rhody,

I seem to have a problem with some of my rhododendrons. I very carefully fed and watered the plants this summer. They all seemed to be doing very well. They were growing nicely, set bud well for next season, and generally were quite attractive. About a month ago I noticed some small stems that looked brownish, like they were dying. This occurred only on the outer stems. It looks bad. What did I do wrong? What can I do now?

"Help!"

Dear Help!

I believe your problem is caused by two factors: Mother Nature and your care and feeding of your plants.

It seems our favorite plants, Rhododendrons of course, were really attacked by the weather this past year. Last April we had very warm weather followed by a hard freeze. As you may recall this produced damage on some early blooming rhododendrons. Then in the middle of summer we had one of the hottest days on record in Western Oregon. Many plants were fried to a crisp by the sudden change in temperature.

Our autumn this year was incredible. I have lived in the central coast area for 35 years and I believe the weather this year was better than any other year I can remember. It was so dry many of us had to keep watering during September and most of October. Then, all of a sudden, an arctic blast hits the area. Temperatures in the area dropped to as low as 19 degrees F. in some locations. Once again warm weather followed by sudden cold caused problems for some of our plants. Those problems were intensified if you were fertilizing and watering your plants before the cold hit. The autumn was so warm new growth was popping out on many of our plants. When the temperature suddenly dropped, the new growth was frozen and now looks unattractive. I suggest you remove the damaged new growth by hand or with clippers. Your plants will look very nice once again. No permanent damage has been done and your blooms will not be affected.

In the future, don't fertilize after the first week in September. Roy Thompson, of Thompson's Nursery, quits fertilizing in August to guard against new growth being frozen by sudden drops in temperature.

Dr. Rhody

Our Favorite Rhodies and Azaleas

Be sure to turn in your questionnaire listing your recommendations for your favorite rhododendrons and azaleas for growth on the Oregon coast. Please feel free to recommend as many as you wish. They may be turned in at the Christmas Party or mailed to:

Siuslaw Chapter ARS
Post Office Box 1701
Florence, OR 97439-0111

President: Mike Bones
(541) 997-3082
mailto:rhodies@hARBORSIDE.COM
Vice President: Everett Hall
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Book Chairperson:
Marianne Horney
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DECEMBER CALENDAR

Christmas Party

When

Sunday, December 8
Gather at noon - eat at 1 p.m.

Where

Odd Fellows Campground
(West of NACO West
Campground, take the first exit
to the left)

What

Annual Christmas Potluck
(Bring a dish - or two - your
table service, beverage [coffee
will be provided], serving
spoons) ----and----

Gift Exchange

Bring an inexpensive garden-
related gift

Food Items Still Needed

Turkey (1) with some gravy
Hot Vegetables (2)
Fruit Salad (2)
"Other" Salad (1) (not green)
Stuffing (1) (aka "Dressing")
Relish trays (2)
Cranberry Sauce (2)
Olives
(Call Kathy Bones [997-3082]
to let her know what you are
bringing)

From the VP

During a normal winter the storms from the Pacific Ocean sweep across the central Oregon coast on a regular basis. But between these storms we have periods of fairly nice weather and we can take advantage of these dry spells to work in our gardens. If you haven't completed your planting and transplanting this is a good time to do it, and the plants will be nicely settled into their new locations by the time spring arrives. If you are raising any plants you know to be a bit tender, be prepared to give them extra protection in the event we get one of those rare Siberian-cold spells that once in a long while creep down from the north and raises havoc with our gardens. Providing the plants with a windbreak will frequently be all of the protection they might need. That thin foam sheeting obtainable from a building supply store works well for that purpose. You might even want to consider spraying with an anti-desiccant or anti-transpirant for an especially favorite plant. These sprays will form a thin film that seals in moisture and helps to prevent water loss. These sprays can be applied as late as two hours before the predicted cold spell arrives. Mulching your plants will help protect the roots against alternate freezing and thawing. Wood chips and ground bark are excellent choices for mulch and will also provide nourishment for your plants as it breaks down.

December 8th is when we have our annual Christmas party with one of our fabulous potlucks and a gift exchange. Any garden-related gift is appropriate and it should be relatively inexpensive. We do this for fun - not to receive an expensive present. Be sure to be there. Santa Claus (otherwise known as Mike Bones) will be in charge of the festivities. Probably in short pants.

The featured plant of the month is *R. cerasinum*. This species was first discovered in 1924 by Frank Kingdon-Ward when he was exploring in Tibet. He found it again in 1928 in Assam. It was subsequently found by other plant hunters in various other locations in Tibet. There aren't many *R. cerasinum* plants in the central coastal areas, but they will grow very well here. Mike Bones grows the plant where I took the picture. This plant will become quite large growing to become six to ten feet tall and about as wide when mature. The trusses are composed of 6 or 7 loose, thick fleshy bell-shaped flowers that are about 2 inches long. They vary in color from cherry-red, to brilliant scarlet. There are two-toned forms that are especially striking. They all have deep purple nectar pouches. It will bloom in May and often blooms again in autumn, giving you two seasons to enjoy it. Although this is not one of the big-leafed rhododendrons, it should be planted where it will be protected from the wind. If you want a plant that is especially attractive, and one that is not all that common in our area, this would be a good choice.

Everett Hall, Vice President

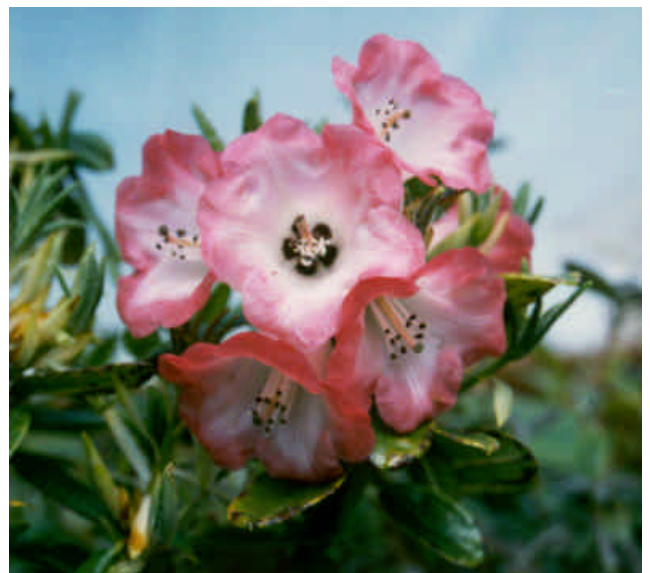
Siuslaw Chapter Development Fund

Your Board of Directors is considering creating a fund (which we are currently calling a "Development Fund") to allow Chapter members and friends to contribute, in small or larger amounts, to the development and promotion of special Chapter projects. Some proposed projects are: to further the enjoyment and proliferation of rhododendrons in the Chapter and the communities it serves, develop special projects for the propagation of rhododendrons and azaleas, develop greater community presence through philanthropic activities, develop the rhody as a focal point in the communities served by the Chapter, develop a Chapter Web site, participate in rhododendron related activities, and other such projects as suggested by the membership and the Board of Directors.

Money for this Fund will be primarily from donations and gifts by Chapter members and friends and will be tax deductible.

The Board really WANTS YOUR INPUT. We will be distributing a questionnaire at the next meeting but in the meantime, please call any Board member (the names and numbers are on the front page of the newsletter) if you have any ideas or suggestions - or would like to help us!

**ARS Annual Convention
Olympia, Washington
May 1 - 4, 2003**



R. cerasinum Photo courtesy of Everett Hall

Board Meeting Mini-Minutes: November 12

- Mike Bones announced that Betty Spady had passed away. Donations to the Rhododendron Society Endowment Fund or other rhody areas the Spady's had given to have been suggested.
- Jim Smith will have the revised bi-laws ready for distribution by the next general meeting. Having a corresponding secretary or membership secretary or committee was discussed.
- Jim Smith announced the 2003 show dates (April 5 & 6; May 17 & 18) have been sent to Sonja for the Journal.
- Gene Cockeram reported 3 were at the last work party at Gallagher Park. Gene will provide the newsletter with a "to do" list for people to use any time in the Park. Getting the names on the plants in the Park is a necessity. It was suggested to go and see the new bench Patty May has put in the Park in memory of her parents, Vern & Marion May.
- The Yurt at Honeyman State Park has been reserved for the '03 June picnic. Seed from some of the special rhodies will be made available at the Christmas party.
- Speakers for the rest of this year have been identified.
- Jeannie Shields has been working on the development fund. The board will discuss the concept at the next study group.
- It was suggested Paul & Freda Ziegelmaier be asked to do the greeting and put name tags on the new people.
- Jim Smith proposed that we gather for the meeting at 6:30 - 6:45 and start the meeting at 7:00 PM, beginning in January.
- Attempts will be made to have an amplification system available for the January meeting.
- There is NO BOARD MEETING IN DECEMBER. The next meeting will be Tuesday, January 14, 2003.
- Jim Smith suggested and the Board agreed that we have our fall picnic in August and start the regular meetings in September.
- Mike Bones asked for the Board's feelings on the dues increase of \$5 that will apply beginning with the '04 period.
- Mike asked for help in contacting members that have not yet sent in their dues.
- Awards will be made at the December Christmas Party.
- The food list for the Christmas Party was discussed.

Kathy Bones, Secretary



Rhododendron "Tropic Alpine Brilliant"

Jim Gerdemann is a Chapter member who lives in Yachats. He has long pursued the development of hybrids, derived from natives of the higher altitudes of tropical areas, which will grow in our coastal environment. "Tropic Alpine Brilliant" is one of his vireyas that is most appropriate for the Christmas season. The photo was made available by Jim.

Gallagher Park Maintenance

With the Florence Garden Club, the Siuslaw Chapter of the ARS helps maintain Gallagher Park, which is located just west of Spruce and north of Route 126. Our Chapter provides a work party on the morning of the last Saturday of the month; the October work party consisted of Gene Cockeram, Ron Prchal and Patty May.

In an effort to enhance our contributions to this effort, Gene has pointed out, in his capacity of Park Chairman, that volunteers would be welcome at any time for certain tasks. For example, he encourages us to feel free to pick up debris and to remove weeds, blackberries and salal whenever we have the opportunity. We should, however, leave any pruning of the park specimens to the monthly-organized work party under the supervision of Gene or his designee.

Should you have any questions, please contact Gene at 541 997-2377. Any assistance that you can render would be most appreciated.

Chapter T-Shirts & Sweat Shirts

They will be available for purchase at the Christmas Party. See Dave Shepherd.

Changes In Our By-Laws

Our Board has proposed that there be three changes to our by-laws. In accordance with our by-laws the proposed changes were distributed at the last meeting in anticipation of a vote on them by our membership at the Christmas Party. Publication in the newsletter is intended to further inform our membership of the intent to change the by-laws.

Those sections recommended for change, Articles VII, VIII & IX, are provided below. The changes are shown in *Italics*. To summarize, these modifications will: 1) provide for a board member to act as liaison to the nominating committee (Art. VII), 2) ensure that notice of by-law changes be given at the meeting prior to their adoption (Art. VIII), and 3) clarification of the language of the previous by-laws version regarding disposition of the chapter's assets in the event that it was necessary for the chapter to be dissolved (Art. IX).

ARTICLE VII - ELECTIONS

At the regular chapter meeting in May of even-numbered years, the President shall appoint a Nominating Committee consisting of three (3) non-office holding members of the chapter *and one board member. The board member will be a non-voting coordinator for the committee.* The committee shall submit the names of nominees for officers during the June meeting. Further nominations may be made from the floor at the June meeting by any member present and with the consent of the nominee. The nominees shall be voted upon and elected at the June meeting (even-number years). The term of each officer shall commence at the adjournment of same June meeting and continue two (2) years. In case of inability to complete a term of office, a successor shall be appointed by the Board of Directors for the balance of the term.

ARTICLE VIII - AMENDMENTS TO THE BY-LAWS

These by-laws may be amended by a two-thirds (2/3) majority of those present and voting at any regular or special chapter meeting. Written notice of a proposed change in the by-laws *shall be given during the chapter meeting prior to the meeting where proposed changes will be voted upon.*

ARTICLE IX - DISSOLUTION OF THE CHAPTER

In the event of dissolution of the *chapter, all* assets remaining shall be distributed to the American Rhododendron Society or a special fund of the Society, at the discretion of the board members.

Book Section

Greer's Guidebook to Available Rhododendrons: species and hybrids

Harold E. Greer

Hard Copy

Members \$20 Non-Members \$30

This is a good combination book with information and illustrations for species and hybrids. You will also find useful information and illustrations on: *Rhododendron Flower and Leaf Shapes, Botanical and Horticultural Terms, Rhododendron Propagation, What Rhododendrons Require, Fertilization, Pests and Diseases, Non-Disease Problems, Insects and Others Pests, Pruning, and Deadheading and Pinching.*

The Pacific Coast Rhododendron Story

Sonja Nelson with the Portland Chapter ARS

Hard Copy

Members \$26 Non-members \$40

Soft Copy

Members \$20 Non-members \$30

Filled with historical information and photographs, this is a great book for your reference library! From pioneers in hybridizing to arboretums and botanical gardens in British Columbia, Washington, Oregon, and California, this book is full of information of a historical nature.

The Rhododendron Species

H. H. Davidian

Volume II Elepidotes

Arboreum - Lacteum

Volume III

Neriiflorum - Thomsonii

Hard Copy

Members \$46 ea. vol. Non-members \$54.95 ea. vol.

For those of you who want more information on species rhododendrons than the average book provides, these books are loaded! They will tell you who first discovered each species and where and when; classification; hardiness; line drawings (beautiful!) of the leaf shapes, flower shapes, scales, seeds, and full-page drawings to go with each species. There are also photographs of the rhododendrons as well as many of the locations where they originated.

For further information and availability please call me at 541 997-6626.

Marianne Horney

New Member

The Chapter welcomes new member Beky Garrett.