



Macrophyllum

December 2006

Newsletter of the
Siuslaw Chapter
American Rhododendron Society
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UPCOMING Chapter Events

Chapter Meeting – Christmas Potluck, **Tuesday, December 5**. Our December meeting will be our annual Christmas dinner to be held at the Jesse Jones Odd Fellows Campground off of the South Jetty road. We will be gathering starting at 5pm and will eat at 6 pm. If you haven't signed up for food, please call Kathy Bones 997-3082. We will be doing a gift exchange. Please make it a "Garden" type present. The Fireplace should be burning, great food smells, happy members of the Siuslaw Chapter all together, making this a fantastic evening. See you there. Mike Bones

Cookie Team- none this month

Gallagher Park Work Party – due to winter weather and holidays, there usually is not a work party in December.

Garden Tours- December tour will be Christmas Lights in Coos Bay. Mike Bones will be the tour guide. Meet at True Value store parking lot on December 6th, at 3pm and look for Mike. Please call Mike or Kathy Bones at 997-3082 to make your reservations.



phaeochrysum

Compact evergreen shrubs to small trees with rough flaking bark. A common, widespread and incredibly variable species in the wild. The leaves have an attractive agglutinated to felted, pale brown to deep red-brown indumentum on the lower surface. The upper surface is generally a deep shiny green. The flowers (mid-spring) are white to pink and spotted. This is a species seldom seen under the correct name in cultivation. It can be difficult if not given a cool position with excellent drainage but makes an outstanding ornamental plant with age. Native to SW China (Sichuan, Yunnan & SE Tibet) where it occurs in a wide variety of habitats from 10,000 to 15,500 ft. One of the most common species in the wild.

Photo & Information from the Rhododendron Species Foundation website.

SECRETARY'S REPORT By: Kathy Bones

The board met and took care of Chapter business on Tuesday, November 14. Gallagher's Park was the big topic of the night! It seems the City is focused on the other parks in town and not ready to be involved with the projected plans for Gallagher proposed by our Chapter. Tony Rebello and his committee have worked really hard coming up with wonderful improvement ideas for the Park. Tony and Mike Bones will meet with the Park Commissioners to present the ideas at their meeting on November 16. Our goal is to get permission to let the Chapter do the work whenever each of us has free time. We will let you know the outcome so you can participate in making our Rhododendron Park even more beautiful.

Each of the 3 people that worked at Gallagher's Park won a plant from the drawing last month with their free ticket they earned. Volunteering at the Park sure can pay off!! If anyone wishes to see the full secretary's report from the board meeting, see Kathy Bones. I highlight the meeting for you here and not everything gets in sometimes.

If you would like your garden included in the list of gardens to view next Rhody weekend, see Tony Rebello. He's in the process of collecting gardens for visitation. Check the calendar in the Senior News in the Siuslaw newspaper during December. It will include a notice about our meeting, thanks to Bob Horney.

We know you want to write an article about Rhodys for our newsletter and we want to read them!! Merilee Mulvey would love to have articles for the newsletter, especially when she needs fillers. Write one and send it to Merilee by e-mail (gmmulvey@oregonfast.net) using the font of Arial size 11. I'm told we will have a microphone at every meeting from now on. Not everyone speaks as loud as Mike! (This is probably a good thing!)

I'm looking forward to our Christmas Potluck this December! It's always a fun gathering with lots of good food and fun things happening! Check the front page of this newsletter for date and time. If you don't know what to bring, call Mike or Kathy Bones. We have the sign up sheet!

Merry Christmas Kathy Bones, Secretary

Update: Mike and Tony attended the Parks Commission meeting with our Chapter's proposal for Gallagher's Park. The Commissioners approved the plans and are sending it onto the City for their input. We now are waiting to hear from the City before we begin implementing the work. Mike says to "call your Mayor!"



neriiflorum ssp. *neriiflorum*

A variable species ranging from compact and rounded evergreen shrubs to small trees. Attractive smooth and peeling, pale brown to tannish or red-brown bark. The leaves are smooth with a glaucous white covering on the underside in most forms. The tubular bell-shaped flowers (mid-spring) are typically bright red with a thick and lustrous, waxy appearance. A very free-blooming and easily grown species. Native over a wide area of W Yunnan and N Burma where it occurs in various habitats from 7,000 to 11,000 ft.

1965/397 Crarae (+5). A selected clone from Scotland of this highly ornamental species with bright red flowers on a medium sized 6 to 8 ft. shrub.

Photo & information from the Rhododendron Species Foundation website.

Dear Dr. Rhody

Dear Dr. Rhody,

I read in your column earlier this year that you suggest October is the best time to plant Rhododendrons. I purchased 10 new plants but somehow I have not yet had the time to plant them. Am I too late? What do you suggest?

Late

Dear Late,

I did indicate that the very best time to plant or transplant Rhododendrons or most any other plant is October. However, we live in an area that usually doesn't have extremely cold weather. I would suggest that you can plant anytime during the winter as long as the ground is not frozen.

Make sure you provide material to make your soil porous and able to drain easily. One advantage to planting during our rainy season is an opportunity to see where **not** to plant – areas of standing water should be strictly avoided. So put on your raincoat, get your shovel and plant those Rhododendrons. Then wait until spring to enjoy the blooming of our favorite plants.

Dr. Rhody

Here are some hints from your OSU extension agent for this time of the year in Western Oregon.

*Bait garden flower beds for slugs during rainy periods. Use traps or iron phosphate baits that are pet-safe.

*Good time to transplant landscape trees and shrubs.

*Moss appearing in lawn means too much shade or poor drainage.

*During heavy rains, watch for drainage problems in the yard. Tiling, ditching, and French drains are possible solutions.

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January cookie team – Jackie Marble, Sandi Hennig, Nancy Fullmer, and Jenny Velinty.

None of the cookie team showed up in November, so please let Jenny Velinty know if you are NOT going to be able to provide cookies. ☺☺☺ Jenny's phone # is 997-7573 or jenvel@harborside.com

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.