



Macrophyllum

DECEMBER 2007

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

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

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UPCOMING Chapter Events

Chapter Meeting – the December meeting is our annual Potluck Dinner. This will be held on Sunday, December 9th at Jessie Jones Odd Fellows Campground. Drive south on Hwy 101 over the Siuslaw bridge, continue south about ½ mile and then turn right onto South Jetty Road. The address is 04906 and there should be a sign on the left indicating the park entrance. Look for the round building where the club will gather for dinner.

Membership Renewal- The deadline for Renewal was November 15th, to receive the ARS national periodical.

Cookie Team- no team for this month.

Correction to last month's newsletter- page 2, column announcing future flower shows. The *Siuslaw Chapter Early Flower Show* is **April 4-5** not 14-15. Thanks, Paul Wilson, for catching my boo-boo!

December Potluck Signups Still Needed

1. Gravy- 3 needed
2. Turkey dressing – 2 needed
3. Salads – 2 needed
4. Hot Veggies- 3 needed
5. Rolls/butter – 2 needed

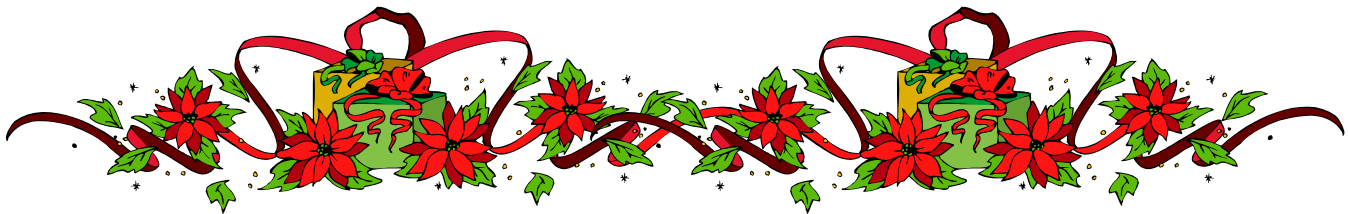
Kathy Bones is organizing the dinner signups. Please contact her (541-997-3082) or (kathbones@charter.net) if you can bring any item(s) listed above. There may also be need of another turkey if many more members attend. If you can bring an extra bird, let her know before you prepare one! She will tell you if it's needed or not...

Garden Theme presents may be exchanged. Be sure to mark if they are specifically for a female or male! Directions to the potluck are on page one of this newsletter under the Upcoming Chapter Events section.



Editor's Story Line – by Merilee Mulvey

I was reading a wonderful article this month, in the *American Rhododendron Society Journal*, Vol 61, No. 4, Fall 2007. The story (part I) of the **Hinsdale Estate (Spruce Reach Island) at Dean Creek, Reedsport, Oregon** unfolds with a detailed history of the Hinsdale family, pioneers in early 1850's Oregon. *Part II of the story will be coming in the Winter 2008 issue of the Journal.* My curiosity was aroused, so I 'Googled' the topic on the Internet and found a blog site in Reedsport that had the entry (written in January 2007) that I have added below. I thought those of you who are travelers and investigators might enjoy learning about this historical homestead and the people in the greater Reedsport area who seem to be trying to save the landmark and return it to its original splendor. What a wonderful effort to preserve our historical botanical gardens and especially Rhododendrons in general. If any of you are aware of this project and would like to send me information for a future newsletter, I would greatly appreciate your input. Happy Holidays, fellow club members! Best wishes from my family to yours.



Saturday, January 13, 2007

Hinsdale House, Reedsport, Oregon Coast Update

At a Reedsport Rotary meeting this week, a representative from the Coos Bay office of the BLM talked about the Hinsdale House along the north side of Umpqua River. This Oregon Coast house and its gardens were sold to the BLM years ago with the stipulation that the gardens be saved. The property has been an albatross around its neck ever since due to its limited access and the house is not up to code.

In 1998, a group of nearby citizens (the Friends of Spruce Reach Island) rallied to save the 1912 house from demolition. More than 650 people showed up for a tour of this historic house across the river that is currently only accessible by boat. The gardens contain more than four hundred rhododendrons that are 50 and 100 years old as well as many rare trees and shrubs in the garden. This group and others were successful in preventing the decaying structure that is not up to code from being torn down.

At the Rotary meeting this week, BLM rep Elaine mentioned that it was working with the American Rhododendron Society to establish a national historic site there so that the gardens could be preserved. For those interested in helping in the gardens, a work party is planned for this spring (2007).

The BLM has received \$60,000 that will go towards repairing the existing bridge that leads to the property. Recently two acres were purchased on the east side of the bridge that could possibly serve as a parking area in the future. Regarding the home of former Oregon Senator Henry Hinsdale, the BLM is in a quandry because a rare bat has taken residence in the home and they are obliged to preserve its habitat. There may be a way to renovate the home that could preserve the bat's habitat but the jury is still out on this one.

The BLM is also looking for ideas of activities to get people to come out to the gardens. Someone at Rotary, suggested they re-institute the "May Tea" that used to be held on the island. Elaine also mentioned possible garden tours. They would like to see the site become self-sustaining in the future.

To view the website, type in: <http://reedsport-winchesterbayevents.blogspot.com/>



Happy Holidays

Secretary's Report

The Board is actively pursuing a willing volunteer to be Chairman of the flower shows. This is not a scary job! Jim has made it very easy with written instructions on what to do, when to do it and how to do it.

There are many experienced workers out there willing to continue doing the jobs they have been doing, making the process even easier. If you are interested, see any Board member and they will answer any questions you may have about the job.

Be sure you get your *bookmark* that tells all the dates and programs for this 2007-08 Club season. The dates go through June 2008 with the picnic at Honeyman State Park. (It's too early for the Club to get signed up at the park for the August picnic, so be watching for that date to add to your bookmark!) If you haven't gotten your bookmark yet, see a board member.

The Christmas dinner will be December 9, gather at noon eat at 1:00 at the Odd Fellows Campground south of town. Bring a garden related gift (doesn't have to be a plant). Gift certificates to our own store are always nice.

Plans are already getting underway for the District Convention the Club will host in 2010. The facility for the convention is being looked for as I write this. We have been asked to suggest topics you might enjoy learning about, to include in the workshops. Give your ideas to Mike Bones or Jim Smith.

Have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! See you next year!

Holiday Wreath

One of the best ways to fill your home with the wonderful smells of fall foliage is to make a wreath or mantel spray during the holidays.

There are many how-to books at the Siuslaw Public Library, bookstores, and newsstands to create a decorative display with the plants from your garden. This year I am pruning back a bushy rosemary to make a fragrant wreath for my home. I found some inexpensive decorations at local stores to incorporate into the wreath. With wire and your imagination, you can make whatever style, size or shape of decoration you choose!

Now, all that is left to do is figure out how to keep my *Cat* from jumping up onto the wreath!



Rhododendron Species Foundation Membership

Our club annually renews its membership to the Rhododendron Species Foundation & Botanical Garden. The Foundation invites anyone in our club to visit the garden at *no charge*. Here is the Mission Statement of the Foundation:

The *Rhododendron Species Foundation* is a non-profit organization dedicated to the conservation, research, acquisition, evaluation, cultivation, public display, and distribution of Rhododendron species. The Foundation provides education relating to the genus; and serves as a unique resource for scientific, horticultural, and general gardening communities worldwide. The RSF will use the following means to achieve this mission:

Acquire and maintain as comprehensive a collection of *Rhododendron* species as possible.

Conserve *Rhododendron* species through the cultivation and distribution of selected forms and documented wild collected material as obtained in the field or by other means.

Support the *Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden*, a living plant museum and effectively designed garden for the display and cultivation of *Rhododendron* species along with other plants with which they associate.

Provide information, education, and support of research for persons interested in the genus *Rhododendron*

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Privacy Policy:

The club wishes to inform its members that their personal address information given at membership signup is confidential and not shared with any outside source. E-mail addresses are used only to disseminate club information to the membership.

Website under Construction!

Our webmaster, Paul Wilson, wants you to know that he is working to make the club website even better than it already is; there will be more memory for such luxuries as sharing video footage of plants. So get out your cam-corder or digital camera and start documenting your favorite plants to share with the club! The new improved website will be readysoon.

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.