



Macrophyllum

DECEMBER 2009

HAPPY HOLIDAYS !

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 Potluck –December is our annual potluck dinner party on **Sunday the 6th** at the Jesse Jones Oddfellow Campground. **Dinner will start at 1:00 p.m.** Gathering begins at 12:00 noon. 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. *See food details below.*

December Potluck

- Kathy Bones is organizing the dinner signups. Please contact her (541) 997-3082 or (kathybones@charter.net) if you can bring a food item(s). Signup sheets for food to bring started at the November meeting. You can add your name to Kathy's lists if you contact her to see what food is still needed. You will need to bring your own table service (plate, napkin, silverware, and a cup) to the dinner.
- **Garden Theme** presents may be exchanged. Be sure to mark if they are specifically for a female or male!

COASTAL GARDENING RESEARCH PROJECT

Patricia Thompson owns Secret Garden Growers in Canby, Oregon. She grew up in Newport, Oregon with her grandmother who nurtured her passion for gardening. Patricia is doing a research project on coast gardening and wants to share the results with gardeners like ourselves along the coast of Oregon.

You are invited to visit the Secret Garden Growers website to learn more about Patricia's research project. Along with your newsletter is another document that is a copy of the research project questionnaire. You can print it out at home and fill it out using the directions from her website. Then send it in to her. She will be thrilled to receive your input... and it will help so many other gardeners when the project is completed.

Visit the website and enjoy this new resource contact.

Secret Garden Growers
29100 S Needy Rd, Canby OR 97013
(503) 651-2006 www.secretgardengrowers.com
Email: secretgrwr@aol.com

You can also read about the project on our chapter website at
www.siuslawars.org

Membership Renewal Closes This Month

A reminder that this will be your last newsletter if you haven't sent in your renewal membership for the 2009-2010 chapter year. The membership chair will be dropping those non-renewals from the Siuslaw Chapter Newsletter mailing list on 12/31/09. Also, the ARS National organization will no longer send out the quarterly magazine to non-renewals.

There is still time to contact Sandi Hennig for renewal at flendish@q.com or 997-2489.



Dora Amateis Hybrid Rhododendron
Photo by Eleanor Philp

D is for December

I present to you the stunning “Dora Amateis” hybrid rhododendron. Its seed parent and pollen parent are minus var minus Carolinianum Group x ciliatum. The predominate flower color is white. This is a wonderful selection for the snowy season of December not only for its beautiful white color but for its cold hardiness to -15°F.

This plant occasionally has fragrance and it is an early to midseason bloomer. The height in ten years is three feet. The leaves are 1 ½” to 2 ½” long, recurved, dull, dark green. The leaf color becomes a lovely bronze hue if grown in full sun. It prefers some shade for best performance, however. The plant grows twice as wide as tall.

Hybridizer is Amateis and the registration reference is RHS 58

Botanical Latin... Yikes!

I was looking through my folder of articles saved for our chapter newsletter and found one I had cut out from the Register Guard in 1998. It was written by Sarah Robertson and was titled “Once deciphered, botanical Latin.” She talked about the lament of most gardeners who don’t know the first thing about pronouncing the botanical names of plants they purchase. Been there... done that!

Here is an excerpt from the article that I found extremely helpful:

“The set-up (for Latin pronunciation) is pretty standard: A plant typically has two names; the first is capitalized and is the genus or family name, while the second is lower case and is the more personal, individual identity. Sometimes, there is a third name that further distinguishes a plant. It’s called the cultivar or variety name. Sometimes it’s in Latin or Roman, other times it’s defined with single quotation marks. The first name is important because it places a plant firmly within its specific family. A plant with the genus name of “Rosa,” for example, can safely be assumed to be a rosarian’s best friend.” But it’s that second name that offers the most insight. Take *Lilium candidum*, also known as the Madonna lily. The ‘candidum’ lets a knowledgeable gardener know that the blooms of this particular lily will be pure, glossy white because that’s what ‘candidum’ means in Latin.”

We have Carl von Linné (Latin name Carolus Linnaeus) to thank for the modern process of plant names. He lived from 1707 to 1778 and was a Swedish botanist, physician, and zoologist. Mr. Linné is known as the father of modern taxonomy (the science of finding, describing and categorizing organisms) and also one of the fathers of modern ecology (the study of the interactions between organisms and their environment). He laid the foundations for the modern scheme of *binary nomenclature* (the formal system of naming species in botanical circles). Now, don’t start yawning yet... we’re almost done! Mr. von Linné chose to use a two-word naming system instead of the full seven-category system of *kingdom-phyllum-class-order-family-genus-species* used in zoological circles. Boy, am I glad he did! It’s tough just learning two words instead of seven!

Carl von Linné became a professor of botany in the 1730’s. In the 1740’s he was sent on several journeys through Sweden to find and classify plants and animals. In the 1750’s and 60’s, he continued to collect and classify animals, plants, and minerals. He eventually published three volumes of his first book, *Systema Naturae*. At the time of his death he was widely renowned throughout Europe as one of the most acclaimed scientists of the time.

Now you know the “rest of the story” about this important scientist. For a fun lesson in pronouncing plant names, visit Fine Gardening Magazine’s website and hear a lovely female voice pronounce the Latin names of many popular plants! <http://www.finegardening.com/pguide/pronunciation-guide-to-botanical-latin.aspx>

Flower Show Awards Supporter Form

Siuslaw Chapter ARS
2010 Early Show in April

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.

Name _____ (please print)

YES, please list my name as the award donor.

Thank you! (Cut out this form and send with your donation to the Siuslaw ARS address above)

SECRETARY'S REPORT By: Kathy Bones

There is a lot going on with the Board in planning the meetings and activities of our Chapter. Bill Johnson and Gene Cockeram went to an all district work party at the Hinsdale Estate to plant 18 rhododendrons. It was a good day.

Nancy Fullmer has made our June 6, 2010 picnic reservations for the Yurt at Honeyman State Park. She also confirmed our reservation for our Christmas party at the Odd Fellows campground. If you need to know what to bring, give Kathy Bones a call. Kathy has our list for the potluck and can give you an idea on what is needed.

The cuttings of the native rhododendron that Gene Cockeram and Everett Hall took awhile back are ready to be planted around the new Senior Center that is under construction right now. The construction is expected to be completed ahead of schedule. The plants will go in when it's completed.

One of the writers for the ARS journal is considering writing an article which will include the "White Rhododendron" short story our editor, Merilee, put in our October 2009 newsletter along with a picture from Gene Cockeram of the white rhododendron. Also, watch for another article in the ARS journal about Gene Cockeram's rhododendron "Pink Ribbons". Always something going on!

There will be no board meeting in December. See you next year!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all from your Board!



Editor's Corner:

I really enjoyed the November presentation by Mark Bloom about "companion planting." He brought many samples of plants that combine well with rhododendrons in your garden.

As I read through my copy of the fall 2009 *Journal of the American Rhododendron Society* there was an article entitled "designing with low growing azaleas" on page 195-196. It was a great reminder that Azaleas (and other low growing rhododendrons) can also be companions and complementary to each other in our gardens.

There are many low growing azaleas that provide wonderful understory coverage for taller growing rhododendrons. I have a dainty little azalea that produces pure white blooms from December through April and makes a cheery display among green plantings of various hues that surround her. She is tucked back in the north corner of my garden where one has to follow my overgrown stone pathway through a narrow side yard. When you come upon her it is as though you have stumbled upon a white snowball in a bowl of greenery.

I'm really enjoying these smaller azaleas. They are usually slower growing, easier to prune and you can utilize them as ground covers in some instances. There is even a rhododendron called "Nakaharae" that I have in my back garden among a collection of azaleas. It stays lower than one foot and is slowly spreading out in a lovely creeping manner close to the ground by my small pond. The blooms are a washed out red and the leaves are furry. It is complemented by a huge Gunnera that shades it in the spring and summer.

You just have to experiment with different sizes and types of azaleas and rhododendrons. You can always move one if it doesn't suit the site!



ENJOY!

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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.