



HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

Macrophyllum

DECEMBER 2010

Newsletter of the
Siuslaw Chapter
American Rhododendron Society
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UPCOMING Chapter Events

Holiday Potluck Dinner Dec 5- will be at the Jesse Jones Oddfellow Campground. Gathering begins at 12:00 noon. Dinner will start at 1:00 p.m. Drive south on Hwy 101 over the Siuslaw Bridge and continue south about ½ mile, 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.

Judy Johnson is organizing the dinner signups. Please contact her (541) 997-4203 or billnjudy4@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 Judy'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!

Fertilizer for Sale- Mike Bones has Rhododendron fertilizer for sale in 20# bags for \$24.00 (20-12-8-8). It really works and is a great deal as well!

ARS Annual Convention- May 11 - 15 at the Heathman Lodge, Vancouver, Washington. When more information is available you will hear it through our chapter newsletter.

DAN'S DELIGHT FOR DECEMBER-

HORIZON MONARCH

Rhododendron Horizon Monarch can be proud of its parents, Nancy Evans x Point Defiance. What a great combination of genes! As you can see from Mr. Brockenbrough's fine photo, this lovely specimen is yellow blooming with openly funnel-shaped 4" pale greenish-yellow to light yellow with a small, vivid red flare. The ball shaped truss holds 15 flowers. All that technical talk is straight from our ARS website description, folks! Can you imagine your editor rattling off that jargon with a straight face?

I can see why Dan Bones picked this beauty for December. The elliptic 6 ¾' long dark green leaves enhance the spreading growth habit of this plant. The plant can reach a height of 6' in ten years and is a midseason bloomer. The cold hardiness of the plant is 5°F (-15°C). Mr. Brockenbrough is the hybridizer and the registration reference is ARS 902.



Photo by: Ned Brockenbrough

It's a winner Danny! Can't wait to see what January will bring!

NATIONAL POINSETTIA DAY December 12

Did you know that the poinsettia has a special day all its own? By an Act of Congress, December 12 was set aside as National Poinsettia Day. The date marks the death of [Joel Roberts Poinsett](#), who is credited with introducing the native Mexican plant to the United States. The purpose of the day is to enjoy the beauty of this popular holiday plant. So, be sure to give someone you love a poinsettia on December 12, National Poinsettia Day!

To learn more about this holiday plant visit the University of Illinois Extension website:

<http://urbanext.illinois.edu/poinsettia/facts.cfm>



POINSETTIA FACTS... just a few to get started. There are more on the website above.

- * Poinsettias are native to Mexico.
- * The Aztecs called the poinsettia Cuetlaxochitl. They made a reddish purple dye from the bracts.
- * Chile and Peru called the poinsettia the "Crown of the Andes."
- * Poinsettias are part of the *Euphorbiaceae* family. Many plants in this family ooze a milky sap.
- * Some people may have skin irritation from the milky sap
- * In nature, poinsettias are perennial flowering shrubs that can grow to ten feet tall.
- * The showy colored parts of poinsettias that most people think are the flowers are actually colored bracts (modified leaves).

When You First Bring Your Poinsettia Home

Light - Place it near a sunny window. South, east or west facing windows are preferable to a north facing window. Poinsettias are tropicals and will appreciate as much direct sunlight as you can provide.

Heat - To keep the poinsettia in bloom as long as possible, maintain a temperature of 65 - 75 degrees F. during the day. Dropping the temperature to about 60 degrees F. at night will not hurt the plant. However, cold drafts or allowing the leaves to touch a cold window can injure the leaves and cause premature leaf drop. If you've ever seen a gangly poinsettia in bloom, with only a couple of sad looking leaves hanging on, it was probably exposed to temperatures that were too cool or extreme shifts in temperature.

Water - Water the plant whenever the surface feels dry to the touch. Water until it drains out the bottom, but don't let the plant sit in water. Wilting is another common cause of leaf drop. A wilted plant can be revived and salvaged, but it will take another season to improve its appearance.

Humidity - Lack of humidity during dry seasons, in particular winter, is an ongoing houseplant problem. If your home tends to be dry and your poinsettia is in direct light, you will find yourself watering frequently, possibly every day.

HINSDALE GARDEN REPORT

Larry the Cable Guy's "Git 'er done!" perfectly describes the attitude of twenty enthusiastic District 4 ARS members recently gathering for a late fall planting of rhododendrons along the lower Umpqua River. The weather proved ideal, serving up a rain free and temperatures in the mid fifties day for 'just right' warmth from our labors. Plus a ready appetite for the goodies and visiting that followed.

This garden of about five acres, located on the south bank of the river opposite the popular Dean Creek Elk Viewing Area, was built around the Hinsdale family home some sixty years ago. O. Howard Hinsdale went to extraordinary lengths in accumulating what is likely the first large private collection of rhododendrons in the Pacific Northwest. A fine assortment of magnolias—many now large trees—and camellias complemented the rhododendrons, while a mix of deciduous and evergreen trees provided overhead protection. Beginning in 1955 the family offered open garden days, and by three years later the annual events were featured in a Roseburg newspaper as hundreds of visitors enjoyed the explosion of bloom.

By century's end the property had passed into the hands of the US Bureau of Land Management and, following an outside assessment incorrectly concluding the garden did not represent any particular style, little or no care found the garden invaded with undesirable growth and in decline. Nevertheless, a solid foundation of established trees and many mature rhododendrons persisted and, with input from ARS members over the past eight years, the BLM reversed its earlier position and is actively supporting refurbishment. An important part of the restoration is replacing rhododendrons lost from the original planting, and in 2008 our Society Board approved a grant of \$3000 from the ARS Endowment Fund to purchase replacement plants for those lost from the garden.

Members planted the first group of those replacements in the fall of 2009 and all appear to be doing well in their new environment. A year later it was time to tackle the second round of plants purchased with grant funds. So in mid November members arrived at the garden to apply shovels and their expertise in settling over thirty plants into the ground. They include ten different named cultivars of the Loderi grex, probably the largest such collection in a single North American garden, and are arranged as a mass planting to provide a stunning display of color and scent. Among the others are both lepidote and elepidote species, with a number of big leaf examples such as *falconeri*, *rex ssp fictolacteam* and *sinogrande*.



Several staff members of the BLM Umpqua Field Office were on hand at the planting party, and in a later e-mail Assistant Manager Glenn Harkleroad summarized "...a good time for all involved. This partnership seems to be on really solid footing with interested and active membership involvement." We are delighted to have this recognition of the members' participation in the garden's restoration. Each of you is due a real 'pat on the back' for generous hours of work and expert advice which, coupled with the ARS endowment funds, has the project well on its way to success.

We're now in the final stages of acquiring evergreen and deciduous azalea replacements with remaining grant funds, and tentatively plan for planting them early next spring. Be on the lookout for more information about planting and garden visits to be circulated among our chapters as next season approaches.

Coupled with major investments by the BLM, the latest being a great new access road over the slough to the main garden, real progress continues toward the goal of fully re-opening the historically important and fascinating Hinsdale Garden. Our membership has a continuing part to play in reclaiming this representative from the early years of the ARS showcasing how and why rhododendrons became important garden ornamentals in the Pacific Northwest.



Gordon Wylie

Editor's Corner:

My eyes light up when I see Shirley Wilson coming my way with her hand clutching a piece of paper and a twinkle in her eye. That means she has found yet another gem of wisdom in a very special periodical called *The AVANT GARDENER*. This month she shares the following information from Vol. 42, #9, page 68, July 2010.

SUMMER AND FALL RHODOS

Stretching the flowering season of a favorite plant is a goal that attracts many modern plant breeders. Azaleas and rhododendrons, that bloom into summer or later, have intrigued authorities such as the great David Leach.

Leach's summer series of rhododendrons bloom in June and Jul, and the plants are hardy to -20°F, flower buds to -15°F or better. White flowered **Summer Show** grows tree-like to 40ft and has become a favorite for parks and estate and public gardens. Pink flowered **Summer Summit** and white flowered **Summer Glow*** grow half or less tall and are also widely sold.

Occasionally offered is another Leach hybrid, **Monaco** which has gold flowers with a red reverse. Most interesting of Dr. Leach's creations is **Last Hurrah** which bears white flowers in the fall and grows 1ft to 2ft tall but up to 5ft across.

Just coming on the scene are the **Scotian** series of hardy evergreen azaleas bred by Nova Scotia gardener John Weagle. They grow low, dense and spreading, and bear pastel flowers in July. Already on the market are deciduous azaleas that bloom in July and August including **Golden Showers** and the intensely fragrant **Lemon Drop**, red **Millennium*** and pink **Pennsylvania**. The South has the new **Encore** azaleas, hardy to -5°F which bloom from July to frost even in winter in mildest areas.

* I found these listed on the ARS national website.

The newsletter *The AVANT GARDENER* is available by subscription from the following address: *The AVANT GARDENER*, BOX 489, New York, NY 10028. Check your regional nurseries for any of these new plants.

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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.