



Macrophyllum

December 2008

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

Wishing you a special Thanksgiving holiday!

Chapter Potluck –December is our annual potluck dinner party on **Sunday the 7th** 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*.

NO Gallagher Park Work Party – We're taking a break in December. See you in January!

Fertilizer- Mike Bones has rhody fertilizer available to the membership. A 50# bag is \$24. Contact Mike Bones if you want to buy some and he will arrange delivery with you. 997-3082 or rhodies@charter.net

Winter Tour- Eugene Holiday Market. Your tour guides, Debbie Drefchinski and Judy Johnson will be taking us to Lane County Fairgrounds to experience this exciting event. Date is Saturday, December 13 from 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Join us for some fun, shopping, eating, and being entertained. There are handcrafted gifts, artisans, live entertainment and an international food court in the exhibit hall. At the Farmers Market held in the auditorium, there is seasonal produce, wreaths, decorations, jams and jellies, chef demonstrations, and entertainment. We will meet in Florence at the True Value parking lot at 9:30 a.m. At this time, we will arrange carpooling. We will then meet at the fairgrounds in Eugene at the food court and make arrangements to share lunch together there later. Everyone is invited to join us at lunch. We will leave the fairgrounds at 3:30 p.m. and plan to arrive back in Florence at approximately 5:30 pm. We plan to have a great time, and we hope many of our members can, too.

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!

BOTTLES, BOTTLES, BOTTLES, BOTTLES **Crates, Crates, Crates, Crates**

The chapter needs *Starbucks or Frapachino* style 8.5 oz. glass bottles to use at the flower shows. Please wash them thoroughly. You can bring them to the chapter meetings starting in January.

The chapter will also need plastic storage crates so they can store the bottles when not in use. Many people who go to yard sales see those crates for a \$1 or so... if you find any, please grab them for the chapter!

Thanks for your help. Drink Up!!

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 2008-09 chapter year. The membership chair will be dropping those non-renewals from the Siuslaw Chapter Newsletter mailing list. 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.



DEXTER'S GIANT RED

D is for December... what a beautiful red bloom. The ARS website Plant Data section displays this photo by Richard Gustafson.

Red is the predominate flower color of Dexter's Red! The flower is openly funnel-shaped, four inches across, slightly frilly purplish-red **blotch**, light red spotting over all. **Conical** trusses of 12-15. There is no fragrance and it is a late bloomer. This stunning plant has leaves that are **elliptic**, **acute apex**, **cuneate** at base, 6 ½ inches long, glossy olive green, retained 1-2 years. The plant has an upright habit and prefers to be grown in filtered light. It is an **elepidote** and was **hybridized** by Dexter. Reference number is ARS 782.

What the heck does that word mean....?

Acute-	tapering with straight or slightly convex sides to a point.
Apex-	the tip or point.
Blotch-	area of contrasting color on the uppermost petal(s) of some plants.
Conical-	resembling a cone shape.
Cuneate-	wedge shaped; triangular at the base and shaping to a point.
Elepidote-	without scales (as opposed to lepidote with scales).
Elliptic-	oblong with rounded ends.
Hybridized-	crossing different clones within a species (intraspecific hybrid) or between clones from different species.

A Glossary is available on the National ARS website; it is very helpful for word challenged people like me!

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*

Located in Federal Way, Washington... Visit their website at: www.rhodygarden.org

Flower Show News

By: Linda Swarz

Much is happening on our way to meeting a February 28th deadline to have many things accomplished!

1. Gene Cockeram has been to the printer in Eugene to order revised hangtags for truss entries (we put on the website and removed extraneous information). If you have any of the old ones, they should be used first! We only had a four inch stack in the storage shed for our supply! Hardly enough for our grand turnout!
2. The aprons have arrived - green (they were going to be red but we discovered they would bleed in the wash). Next we will be pricing the cost of printing on the back and our logo on the front.
3. Merilee has revised the *note card* handout that has supporting nurseries printed on the front and a space for notes on the back. These are given to the public to take notes at the shows. She has also created a bookmark that contains all the information about what we do as a chapter.
4. Mike is in the process of getting the new ARS membership forms and catalogues from Greer.
5. We had our first team leader meeting and they are all busy working toward the deadline with their groups.
6. Merilee has researched where we can get the lowest cost of printing in town and she will be the contact person for printing.
7. We are looking for a building or garage or motor home garage or some weather tight structure where we can store the racks for a short time while we put on another necessary second coat of paint and have time for drying. The paint will be rolled on this time for a nice clean finish – and with tarps on the floor there should be no mess! Anyone know of a place?
8. Don Wallace has accepted our invitation to judge for the late show.
9. Notification to the ARS journal, Oregon Coast Magazine, and AAA has been completed so they can show our flower shows on their calendars.
10. Catalogues from Whitney Gardens are already in the storage shed for reference use and answering questions at the “We Speak Rhody” table.
11. Gene has all the *bottle stoppers* (that fit into frapachino/starbucks bottles) machined and ready for volunteers to take a bag home and complete the final, easy, process with a knife.

This is just an example how busy folks are doing tasks that are “up their alley”. We hope many more of you will attend the spaghetti feed at Bones’ house on Dec 2 and find things to do that are “up your alley.”



FEED ME!

Remember that movie, *Little Shop of Horrors*? Well, meet my *Gunnera* that thinks it's the lead character!

As you can see, there are many healthy fruiting bodies on my plant this year. I just cut off all the huge leaves (some measured four ft wide) and decided to leave the fruit for the birds to work on. One day this large fruit began to split in half and I couldn't pass up this picture to share with you!

Gunnera are easy to grow in Florence and make a nice focal plant next to a pond or in a corner of the garden. I have several ground -hugging rhodies around this one. Cheers!!

Change... a challenging process

The success or failure of any group, whether it is a business or organization, often is embedded within the process of *change*. I say the "process of change" because it is the process that can make or break a group. You know the old adage... it's not the destination, it's the journey. Well, that is the issue with change.

We all have a part in change, and our roles can be categorized three ways: the *Believers In Change* are right away on-board and really thrive on change; the *Cautious Ones* really want to think about the pros and cons before saying yes or no to a change; and the *Resistors Of Change* prefer the status quo and really feel uncomfortable with change. We all know the category into which we fall... All three of these categories are important in groups.

Our chapter is changing. Some will say certain changes are good and some will say they're not sure, and some will say certain changes are not good. But, what I hope we all will consider is the fact that whether we like it or not, change can be healthy for an organization, and can empower our chapter with longevity, strength, and respect from the other chapters that look up to us as a successful role model.

When change is on the horizon, the most important thing an organization's staff can do to create a positive process is to present the reason for the changes and then allow the membership to discuss the supporting and opposing views. Everyone has a stake in the process of change, and it is important for all of us to be heard, knowing that our voices are important, but also knowing that our thoughtful and sincere consideration for whatever the final result turns out to be is important as well.

Are we up to the task of listening to each other's opinions and coming to agreements with all the changes we must consider? I believe we are. Some changes are really needed with the larger group we now have. Some changes need to be discussed a bit to find the right fit for everyone. And, some changes may not be good after all and we must listen to the reason why and allow some things to remain the same. I hope we will all take an active part in our process of change. If we do that, we all can feel pride in the roles we have taken to create the very best organization possible.

This editorial has been reviewed and approved by Mike Bones.

Flower Show Awards Supporter Form Siuslaw Chapter ARS 2009 Early Show

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!

SECRETARY'S REPORT By: Kathy Bones

The board wishes Ann Blizzard a fond farewell as she and Nelson leave our parts. With her resignation from the board, Merilee Mulvey was appointed and agreed to fill Ann's position. Welcome aboard, Merilee!

Setting up our meeting room place has been discussed at lengths and we need help in coming up with a workable plan! Ideally, we would like it done during the day of the meeting but unfortunately, we have no one available to do that. Our only other recourse is to set the chairs up right before the coffee time when we have able-bodied people present to help. Any suggestions or ideas or volunteers are greatly welcomed!! If you haven't paid your membership dues for next year yet, this will be your last newsletter! Hurry and get that in so you don't miss any of the news from our Chapter and your next ARS Journal.

There's a great opportunity to donate a trophy to the early show. Forms are located in the newsletter allowing you to donate \$10 or more towards a plant, book or some item to go toward a trophy for the early show. Any extra money gathered will carry over to the next show. This chance is for members of Siuslaw Chapter only. Businesses will not be approached for the early show since they are the major contributors of the May show.

Remember to contact Mike & Kathy Bones about attending the informational meeting about "opportunities to help with the shows" meeting December 2, at 6:00 PM. You'll get to have a spaghetti dinner served to you! Contact Sandi Hennig about helping her at the hospitality table at monthly meetings. You'll only get one chance a year to do this, as I'm sure there will be a rush of volunteers eager to help greet people as they come to our meetings. A large heated space is needed for painting racks for the flower show. If you have a space, contact Linda Swarz.

Are you interested in learning to "Rhody Speak"? It has been suggested we form a study group to teach people who would like to help talk to visitors at the shows and our meetings with more knowledge and skills than they have now. See Linda Swarz to learn more about this opportunity.

There will be no work party at Gallagher's Park in December. The ARS convention will be April 30-May 3 in Everett, Washington. More information will follow as we receive it. Bones' Nursery has donated the winnings of \$260 from a slot tournament held at Three Rivers Casino and Hotel for participants in their Community Cash program. The winners got to choose the charity of their choice. The donation will be used to pay for the extra room needed at the Florence Events Center during the early show.

The first Siuslaw chapter tour will be on December 13 to the Eugene Fair Grounds for the Lane County Holiday Market and the Holiday Farmer's Market. The caravan will leave True Value's parking lot at 9:30 AM and leave Eugene at 3:30 PM to return home. Lunch will be your choice in the food court at the event. Tours for spring, summer and fall are being planned.

If you missed signing up for a dish for the Christmas potluck, call Bones' at 997-3082 and get on the list! Don't forget your rhody related Christmas gift for the exchange. Bring one gift per person. The Rhododendron Species Foundation is a wonderful place to visit any time of the year. If you want to go, be sure to tell them you're a member of the Siuslaw Chapter of the ARS and you'll get in free as our chapter is a member of the foundation!

We are very happy to congratulate Bob MacIntyre on becoming the new District Director for our district! Dave Collier from the Portland Chapter will be assisting him! This will take effect in May of 2009. Watch out for Bill Johnson as he zips around taking pictures at our meetings and events! He's collecting pictures so he can create a show to use as a program for next year. We can't wait to see what you come up with, Bill!!!

We have already begun to think about programs for next year's chapter meetings. Be sure to make suggestions on what you would like to see to any board member!

Happy Holidays!

Editor's Corner:

A Holiday Gift from Shirley Wilson

Shirley is a member of our chapter and she has graciously shared a wonderful source of gardening information that is not well publicized, but a jewel in the big *media universe* that surrounds us. Shirley has a subscription to a quaint horticultural news service called *The Avant Gardener*. Here is an article from one of the issues that Shirley would like to share with all of us.

Cornell Mildew Cure

Many rose growers are using a formula developed by Cornell University to control powdery mildew and black spot. This formula is also remarkably effective against the strain of mildew fungus that attacks crape myrtles, reports Texas gardener Field Roebuck from Dallas, Texas. Mr. Roebuck, who uses the Cornell spray on his roses, states: "One evening, with spray solution remaining, I saw that our four large 30-year-old white cape myrtles were covered with mildew. So, instead of mixing up my usual lime-sulfur spray, I doused them with the remaining rose spray. The results were amazing. As I sprayed, the mildew dissolved into nothingness. And more importantly, it never came back. That one treatment did the job for the entire season and that has been the case every year since... Here is the formula.

Into one gallon of water, mix 2 tablesoons of light horticultural oil (I use Sunspray oil), 1 heaping tablespoon of baking soda and 1 tablespoon of a mild liquid dish-washing detergent (I use Palmolive Green). Mix well and spray with a pump-up sprayer late in the evening when the sun is no longer on the foliage. Spray both sides of the leaves and all the wood to the point of runoff."

If you would like to subscribe to *The Avant Gardener* here is the contact information:

THE AVANT GARDENER (monthly)
 Horticultural Data Processors ISSN 005-1926
 P.O. Box 489
 New York NY 10028 Thomas Powell, Editor and Publisher
 Subscription: Published monthly, \$24.00 per year, \$30.00 outside USA.
 (Summarizes new garden info, lists sources, etc.)

If you have a tip or helpful procedure you would like to share with the membership, email your information to Merilee at gmmulvey@oregonfast.net or mail to her at PO Box 1701, Florence OR 97439 (Siuslaw Rhody Club mailbox).

THANKS, SHIRLEY ☺

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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.