



Macrophyllum

FEBRUARY 2011

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY

Newsletter of the
Siuslaw Chapter
American Rhododendron Society
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UPCOMING Chapter Events

Meeting Topic- Hybridizing with Pat Osborn

Chapter Meeting – This month's meeting will be on Tuesday, February 15 at 7:00 pm. Meet at the Presbyterian Church, 3996 Hwy 101 N in Florence. Dinner before the meeting this month will be at Chen's Family Restaurant. Contact Rosemary Rebello for reservations (541) 997-6167 or tonyroosemary@charter.net

Gallagher Park Work Party – Wednesday Feb 16 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. The park is at the corner of Spruce and Hwy 126. Gene Cockeram- City Park Commissioner. flowerman@g.com

Cookie Team- Jo Ann Wilson, Judi Johnson, Sandi Jensen and Sharon Samuelson.

ARS Spring 2011 Convention- the District 4 chapters invite you to attend the ARS's annual spring convention, scheduled for May 11 - 15, 2011. Distinguished speakers invited from around the world will provide valuable and interesting information. Tours of outstanding public and private gardens and nurseries are planned, including Portland's Japanese and Classical Chinese Gardens, the Bishop's Close Garden and the well-known Dover Nursery. Meeting talks and banquet events will be held in Vancouver WA at the Heathman Lodge. Non-members are welcome to attend.

Early Flower Show - 2011 Siuslaw Chapter flower show is scheduled for **April 9-10**. Your assistance is needed to put on this show. Please contact a board member to volunteer, even if it is just for a couple of hours!

Dan's Delight--- A Perfect Choice For **VALENTINE** Month!

Fire Rim [Nancy Evans x Pink Petticoats]

This beauty looks like cotton candy. The coloring is so delicate. The predominate flower colors listed are Yellow and Red. This flower has openly funnel-shaped, frilly edges, 3" across, light yellow with purplish-red edge, deep red nectarines red filaments and style. The ball shaped trusses consist of about 20 flowers.

There is no fragrance, but that's not a big factor when you look at the sheer beauty of the plant. Its blooming time is early midseason and the plant reaches a height of 3 feet in 10 years. It is cold hardy to 5°F (-15°C).

The leaves are elliptic, concave with wavy edges, broadly acute apex, cuneate base, 5" long, dull, olive green in color and retained 2 years. The plant has a dense growth habit. This plant is an Elepidote and the hybridizer is Barlup, Ref# ARS 961.



Photo by Don Kohlenberger

The Art of Hybridizing

If you attended the fall 2010 regional conference you may have heard about Pat Osborn's presentation about 52 rhododendrons developed over three generations by the Thompson family. Attendees said it was so interesting. We are going to have the pleasure of a personal presentation by Pat Osborn at our February meeting. While I was investigating hybridizing in general, I found a website that promises to be a very informative supplement to what we will learn during Pat Osborn's talk this month...

Dr. David Goheen, member of the Portland Chapter ARS since 1963, in his website discussion of hybridizing explains, "One can obtain a lot of satisfaction from just growing and cultivating known species and hybrids of these colorful and interesting plants [rhododendrons]. Many enthusiasts have, however, found that their greatest rewards have come from hybridizing -- that is, combining two plants with interesting traits to produce offspring with new, and occasionally, superior traits never seen before!" I'm sure both gentlemen would agree that hybridizing is a fascinating subject and hobby!

After you have heard Pat's talk, check out the website for Dr. Goheen for further hybridizing articles. Use this link: http://www.rhodies.org/resources/rhododendron_abc/abc_index.htm



Photo by Joe Coleman

Who wouldn't want to receive a gift plant named "**Twenty Grand**" for their garden! Though the seed parent and pollen parent are unknown, this perfectly pink hybrid azalea is just right for VALENTINE month. The flower is 2" across, semi double, with rounded petals and strong to deep purplish pink color. This is an Early Midseason bloomer that reaches the manageable height of 4 feet in 10 years' growth period. It is cold hardy to 0°F and has a spreading habit as an evergreen plant. The hybridizer is Pericat and the ref # is RHS 58.



Photo by Joe Coleman

You will really score with "**Sweetheart Supreme**," a late midseason blooming hybrid azalea reaching 5 feet in a 10 year growth period. WOW! The little lady also has unknown seed and pollen parents, but she will make your heart sing when she blooms with those wavy-edged, semi double strong pink blooms with purplish-red spotting. The leaves are elliptic, acute apex, cuneate base and medium green. Cold hardiness is 10°F. The plant has a spreading habit and is also evergreen. The hybridizer is also Pericat and the Ref # is RHS 58.

Your Valentine is going to love beautiful gifts like these that keep on giving every year!

Armchair Virtual Tours

Are you looking for an interesting way to spend a rainy afternoon during the dreary coastal winter season? Well, I have just the thing for you. Turn on your computer, access the worldwide web and enter the American Rhododendron Society's website. Click on the tab "activities" and then choose "Gardens & Parks." You will then have a list as long as your arm of places to visit for an afternoon of virtual touring. Some people even hook up their computer to their flat screen TV!

The very first choice is Achamore Gardens on the Isle of Gigha, "the most southerly and one of the most beautiful of the Hebridean Islands. Seven miles long by a mile and a half wide, Gigha is situated three miles west of the Kintyre peninsular, approximately three hours drive from the City of Glasgow. Gigha is breathtaking - sandy beaches, clear green seas, and a host of wildlife. There are also Achamore Gardens to explore."

Just use this link to enter the world of virtual travel and visit some of the most beautiful gardens and parks in the world through the website your organization helps to support.

<http://www.rhododendron.org/>

Planning Ahead...

It is time to begin your planning for the flower shows coming up in April and May. Your first chance to find out what will be happening at those shows will be at the March 2011 chapter meeting. That evening will be devoted to presenting information to you about how to show your plants, tips for preparing your plants properly, judging information and other important facts you should know.

These flower shows are only as good as you are willing to help make them. Yes, we're all busy; your few hours of assistance will help balance out the workload so a few people don't have to do all the work setting up the show and tearing it down. As members of this chapter, that is part of how an organization functions; the chapter will not survive if our whole membership is not willing to contribute some time and effort to making it successful.



Mike Bones sends you messages-

If you have a few minutes to hear some nice music and see some wonderful photos of the gardens for the 2011 ARS Convention, you will enjoy seeing the new version of the video that Harold Greer has posted on YouTube. Click <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mcqOPvmeGo8> then sit back and enjoy. We may not be on Twitter or have a Facebook page yet, but we are on YouTube.

Hearst TV reporter Sally Kidd interviewed ASA and ARS member Don Hyatt and the former National Arboretum Director Ramon Jordan who approved the destroying of over 10,000 azaleas. These are the azaleas that the USDA bred and grew in the National Arboretum to provide hardy strains of evergreen azaleas. Almost

every hardy evergreen azalea variety came from or descended from this group at the National Arboretum. To learn more about this issue, follow this link: www.savetheazaleas.org

Editor's Corner:

The month of **LOVE**... a perfect time of year to express your love to family, friends, and humanity at large. I know, it's a bit schmaltzy for some of you. But, that's okay because my dad has been telling me all my life that love is the answer... how can a 90 year old father be wrong?

There is an art to expressing your feelings for Valentine's Day. The best Valentine gift I ever received from my husband was the year a flower shop delivery person arrived at the school I worked at and handed me her delivery. I looked at her and said, "Are you sure you have the right person?" She nodded and smiled and slipped out the door as I admired the gift while staff, the principal, and students sitting in chairs waiting to be suspended from school perked up with interest.

You see, my husband was shy; he worked at the same school and he rarely displayed his feelings publicly. For some reason he decided to go out on a limb and let me know he was thinking of me at work that year. The gift was the most unique flower arrangement I had ever seen. A tall sundae glass, one you would order filled with ice cream at a soda fountain, stood in front of me filled to the brim with colorful pastel flowers. The whole thing looked like a delicious ice cream sundae with a red carnation on top that looked like a huge cherry. Sticking out of the glass was a straw with a card and gift certificate attached. I not only received the flowers, but also a gift certificate for a free ice cream sundae at Baskin Robbins to look forward to!

That was years ago, but every Valentine's Day I remember that one special gift that will last a lifetime. It only takes one little gift, or one nice comment, or one act of kindness to anyone to make life special to someone who would least expect it. Go ahead; I know you have a great idea up your sleeve for that special one...

Like my dad says... **LOVE** is the answer.

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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.