



Macrophyllum

February 2008

Newsletter of the
Siuslaw Chapter
American Rhododendron Society
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UPCOMING Chapter Events

Meeting Topic- Nolan Blansit will be the speaker

Chapter Meeting – the February meeting is on the 19th at 7PM at the Presbyterian Church on Hwy 101.

New Dinner Spot- Dinner *this month* will be at the Three Rivers Casino at 5:00 pm.

Meet in the small gathering room of the “Buffet” restaurant inside the casino. Price is \$12.99 per person which includes a beverage with your meal and your tip. Please bring either cash or a check made out to the club (Siuslaw ARS) because the club will be paying the entire bill for the group meal with one payment as requested by the Casino management. The money you bring will be deposited in the club bank account to reimburse the club for your meal(s).

Reservations will have to be made in advance so be sure to contact Eileen McKinney at (541) 997-2222 or egmc@charter.net.

Gallagher Park Work Party – Winter season. .. no work until April

Cookie Team-Jean Gottschalk, Janet Shepherd, Ann Drake, Debbie Talamas

Mark your Calendar- Early Rhody Show will be Saturday/Sunday April 5-6 at the FEC.

Important Note- Take Action ASAP!

The Show Chair Committee is currently trying to update the flower show "Key" and the flower show "Schedule."

When entering your flowers during the past few shows, did you experience a situation where the show assistants who looked up your rhody entry could not locate the name of your flower in either the show key or the show schedule? If this happened to you, would you please send me the name of the flower; these include Rhody's, species, hybrids, evergreen azaleas and deciduous azaleas.

I would appreciate it very much if you could send me the information by the first week in February in order to have the Key and Schedule ready for the early show

Thank you, Paul Ziegelmaier (Ziggy)
e-mail address:

semper_fi@oregonfast.net

Correction Notice: The correct dates of the picnics this summer of 2008 are June 8 and August 10. Please note these dates on your calendar and change your “bookmark” that was passed out at a recent club meeting.

About Nolan Blansit...

Mr. Blansit has been a plant hybridizer most of his life, learning the process from the ground level of germinating seeds. Before becoming involved in rhododendrons, he hybridized African Violets and is credited with developing the first yellow plant in that genus. He now devotes his time to developing rhododendrons that are compact, have great foliage and bloom young.

Mr. Blansit was a speaker at the 2007 Fall Regional Conference held in Newport, Oregon. Don't miss this opportunity to hear what he has to teach us this month!



Seta 2005



R. moupinense – (pollen parent)

President’s Report: by Mike Bones

As soon as these cold days pass, it will be spring. My daffodils are shooting up; crocuses are blooming and rhododendron *Lees Scarlet*, with its dark pink blooms, is a welcoming sight, telling us that Spring is just around the corner.

Christmas Cheer has finished blooming and I have actually deadheaded the plants; I even pinched the single new shoots that were three inches long to make the plant branch. They were great color back in November, blooming along with my dahlias.

The foliage of the *PJM* group is looking nice with their dark mahogany colored leaves. This is brought out by planting them in full sun. They should be blooming sometime in February. *PJM* makes a splash of contrasting color when planted with yellow daffodils.

Another nice early bloomer is rhododendron *Seta*. *Seta* has tubular white flowers tipped with a nice soft pink and, as a contrast, the dark anthers stand out. *Seta* was first introduced by Aberconway in 1933 over in Wales. It is a hybrid of two species; the seed parent is *R. spinuliferum* X *R. moupinense* as the pollen parent. Being that it is an early bloomer, it might be best to place the plant in a more protected site away from the early frost, but visible from your window.

R. spinuliferum (the mother of Seta)



Seta



Photos provided by Mike Bones

Secret in my Shade Garden

The north side of my house is a wet, shady strip about seven feet wide and forty feet long. What on earth was I to do with it? The delicate **Hellebore** was the perfect answer. Interspersed among various types of ferns and shade loving azaleas are a couple of these wonderful plants. When you least expect a bloom, in the middle of winter, the Hellebore surprises one with beautiful subtly shaded bell shaped flowers. They range in color from pale green and creamy white to ruby, garnet, and deep amethyst.

Helleborus Orientalis



Hellebores are mostly evergreen and range in size from one to three feet tall and wide. These shade loving plants thrive in moist soil with moderate to regular watering. They can live for decades if cared for properly.

Hellebores need good air circulation and well-drained soil that has been amended with organic matter or compost in an alkaline environment.

When planting the Hellebore, be sure that the crown (point where their roots and top structure join) is slightly higher than the surrounding soil level to avoid root rot. Mulch your plant with aged compost in spring and fall. Be sure to cut back damaged foliage in early spring to encourage new growth.

Caution: these plants may cause allergic reactions, so be sure to wear your garden gloves when handling them. The plant's sap is toxic enough to repel deer. But, don't let that deter you from enjoying this beautiful plant.

Hellebores do very well with companion plantings of ferns and other shade and moisture loving perennials. They also do well in masses beneath high-branching trees.

Tips for Beginners: Seedling Culture

The Journal- American Rhododendron Society (Volume 62 Number 1 Winter 2008) was full of interesting articles. As a beginner to plant propagation of rhododendrons, I was especially glad to read the article on page 5 about seedling culture. Here are some highlights, but be sure to open your copy and read the entire article!

1. **Flats** are easily made from wire mesh. Easy to understand picture shows what they should look like and their dimensions.
2. The mixture for the **medium** is very important and will make or break your attempt.
3. **Sowing the seeds** must be done at the correct time of year for best germination.
4. Once germination occurs, then how do you **care** for them?
5. Yes, **fertilizer** is preferred.
6. You've successfully germinated seeds; now you will learn **after care**... what to do to protect the seedlings.
7. Yes, next is the **second year care**!
8. Oh boy, you better identify those plants; learn **marking**.

Dr. Mark Konrad of Sewickly, Pennsylvania wrote the article and it is so simple to follow that I know any one of us can be successful at growing from seeds.

Our speaker, Nolan Blansit will certainly have more information to offer about this subject, so don't miss our meeting this month.

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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:

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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.