



Macrophyllum

JANUARY 2008

Newsletter of the
Siuslaw Chapter
American Rhododendron Society
Post Office Box 1701
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UPCOMING Chapter Events

Meeting Topic- Patrick Osborn will present "Companion Plants"

Chapter Meeting – the January meeting is on the 15th at 7PM at the Presbyterian Church on Hwy 101. Dinner this month will be at ICM at 5:00 pm. Contact Eileen McKinney for reservations (541) 997-2222 or egmc@charter.net.

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

Cookie Team- Jo Anne Wilson, Judy Johnson, Barbara Chase, Ginger Bell

Add to your Calendar- The August 2008 picnic will be on the 10th at the meeting hall in Honeyman State Park. More information will be posted in spring newsletter issues.

2008 ARS Convention- April 16-20 in Tulsa, Oklahoma. The Ozark Chapter proudly hosts this event and their theme is "Rhododendrons of the Wild West." Go to www.rhododendron.org then click on the *2008 ARS Annual Convention* listing or their *register now* option.

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NEW WEBISTE ITEMS!

A Note From Your Chapter Webmaster: Paul Wilson

Our Siuslaw chapter website is trying something a little different. We now have a chapter photo web gallery. At this point the Webmaster has placed two photo albums with about 10 photos each on the site. First are photos from our 100th anniversary flower show. Second are photos showing how to use pots to show off your flowers and/or Rhododendrons. **Yes**, you can add **your** digital photos to these albums **OR** download photos to your computer, if you like. Note the "help" directions. If you plan to click on the movie, you should have a high-speed Internet connection. If you have a dial up modem, you could find the movie very slow to download. Can you think of other movies we might add? Click the very small "help" button in the lower right hand corner of the window to learn how to use everything. Most responding have told me they like the slide show best. Now just click on the hot link below and have some fun.

<http://gallery.mac.com/siuslawars>

President's Report by: Mike Bones

I hope this newsletter finds everyone still filled with the Christmas Spirit, with wishes that the new year will bring you much happiness and joy. A new year is upon us. Wow! It's hard to believe. The speaker at our first meeting of 2008 will be **Patrick Osborn** from Thompson's Nursery, in Waldport, showing us a power point presentation of companion plants. This is a new program for the Siuslaw Chapter as we have always had talks about Rhododendrons and Azaleas...and the membership asked for it. This is your chapter and the board strives to implement your suggestions. Let's make a great showing... bring a friend or two. This should prove to be a very informative meeting. We always meet on the third Tuesday of the month with programs starting at 7 pm sharp (with refreshments starting at 6:30) at the *Presbyterian Church of the Siuslaw* on Hwy 101 just north of 35th street. See you there.



Winter Greenhouse Indoors

Here we are, in the depths of dreary stormy winter in Florence and cabin fever is setting in! Now is a perfect time to clean off that potting counter in the garage and set up a winter seed germinating greenhouse. No garage?... this fits in any room of a home or apartment.

For less than \$30.00 you can create a little home greenhouse that lasts for years! As you can see to your left, my garage counter (with shelves above) works well for this project. Enjoy!

Merilee/Editor

Here is what you will need:

- 1 very large clear plastic storage box with lid that has a slight lip around the edge
- 1 plant *grow light* bulb and simple light fixture timer (set for correct hours of light your plants need)
- 1 clip-on light for work benches or shelves
- Package of peat pots or peat tray for starting seedlings (or whatever potting items you prefer)
- Planting medium for starting seedlings

I found a huge clear plastic storage box at the local garden store that will serve as my "greenhouse." I found a clip-on work bench light that can be attached to a nearby shelf or any overheard arrangement you can erect beside your box. Next, pick out the type of planting peat pots you want to use and the appropriate planting medium for your seeds or seedlings.

Now we will set up the greenhouse! Take the lid of your storage box and set it down on the counter so that the side that has the lip will act as your base (just like a cookie sheet that has a slight lip around the edges). Next, plant your seeds in the peat pots with planting medium, according to the planting directions. Set the pots on the lid. Pour room-temperature water into the lid...just enough to moisten the peat pots but not so much that they are soaked!

Put the large box body over the top of the lid and it will act as a greenhouse and provide warm and humid planting conditions for the seeds. Last, set up your clip-on light above the Box so it is shining down on the entire Box to provide light. You can plug it into a simple light timer so it will go on and off the amount of time you need for your seeds to germinate and grow.

Check your greenhouse occasionally to be sure the planting medium is slightly moist. The extra water in the lid will condense and run down the sides of the Box and provide humidity for the emerging seedlings. If needed, you can put a bit more water onto the lid...but I never needed to.

I took a Virtual Trip Today!

Surfing the Rhododendron websites is getting to be a habit for me as I look for articles the membership might enjoy reading. Since many of us will not be able to travel half way around the world to Edinburgh, Scotland this year for the International ARS Convention, I found a way to see a beautiful Scottish garden! Visit the American Rhododendron Society website www.rhododendron.org then click on the "Activities" button. A pop-down menu will give you directory items, so click on "gardens & parks." A large list of gardens to visit awaits you so scroll to the bottom of the list and click on **Younger Botanic Garden Benmore.**

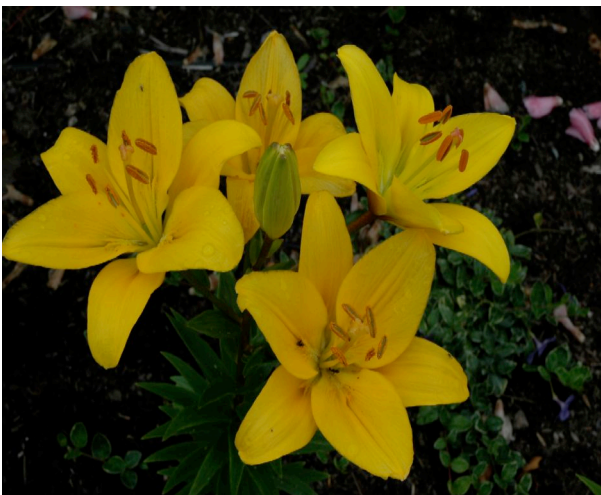
When you click on the garden title it will take you to the Edinburgh Royal Botanic Garden website and you will enjoy a most beautiful trip, from your chair, of what awaits those who will be so lucky to visit Scotland. There are several links to gardens on this website. Or, you can go straight to the home page of the Edinburgh Royal Botanic Garden website with this link www.rbge.org.uk/ . Enjoy!

Dreams of Summer



These pictures are a couple of Asiatic lilies blooming in my garden last June. 2007 produced a bumper crop of blooms that were at least 7 inches wide and plants reaching 5 feet in height. I had orange, yellow, pink, white and various intermediate shades.

Asiatic Lilies are so easy to grow. There are various sizes available from very large to dwarf. Good quality bulb companies have sales throughout the year on these popular bulbs which grow easily anywhere in Florence. The taller varieties fill in nicely among lower growing rhodies and azaleas for summer



The Asiatic Lily

The Asiatics are the hardiest of all the lily hybrids. They do very well in U.S.D.A. Zones 3 to 10, are easiest for the beginner, multiply the fastest, and are the first to flower each season. They come in a wide range of colors -- white, yellow, orange, red, pink and all shades and color combinations, except the color blue. Flowers are mostly up-facing with a few dainty garden gems carrying out-facing or pendant blooms; all will be exciting when the buds unfurl. These hybrids multiply rapidly and bloom over a long season. Although generally unscented, a light scent can be discerned on warm, still days.

Bulbs are mostly five to six inches in circumference, with many of the shorter-growing lilies naturally forming smaller-sized, mature bulbs in the three- to five-inch range. Bulbs are white with a varying amount of pink tint. Bulb color does not determine flower color; most lily bulbs will turn pinkish when exposed to sunlight during harvest. When planting, cover Asiatics with 3 to 4 inches of fluffy soil, according to the bulb size -- smaller bulbs more shallow.

Plant A Bat Garden

Yes, you heard me correctly! One of the most helpful creatures in your yard is the bat. Bats are harmless to humans and can eat not only mosquitoes, but leafhoppers, beetles and adult moths of cutworms and corn earworms. Bats just need a safe place to live.

You can make or buy bat houses and hang them at least 10 feet off the ground out of the wind in an area that has an open entrance to the bat house. Hanging boxes on houses, sheds and garages is more effective than on trees.

Plants to attract Bats- Barberry, Centaury, Cowslip, Evening Primrose, Foxglove, Golden Rod, Harebell, Hedge Woundwort, Herb Bennet, Herb Robert, Lady's Bedstraw, Lemon Balm, Lesser Knapweed, Maiden Pink, Marjoram, Meadow Clary, Meadowsweet, Mullein, Ox-eye Daisy, Primrose, Purple Loosestrife, Ragged Robin, Red Champion, Red Clover, Red Valerian, Rock Rose, Sea Kale, Sweet Rocket, Toadflax, Viper's Bugloss, White Champion, Wild Basil, Wild Clematis, Wild Pansy, Yarrow.

Bat numbers are on the wane, primarily due to the loss of roosting and feeding areas, and the increasing use of pesticides which deplete the bats' supply of insect food. Wildflowers and cottage garden plants, particularly annuals, are attractive to insects, as are herbs and night-scented flowers. It is also useful to grow native trees to attract other insects which bats may well find tasty! Piles of logs will also attract a variety of insects.

Bats will prefer a garden that is close to woods or some type of shelter. If possible, plant near a group of trees. A fence or wall with ivy or other climbing vines works equally well. If there isn't a water source nearby, create a shallow pond in your garden.

Bats are one of many natural biological controls for your garden. What better way to transition your garden to a *non-chemical* maintenance program.

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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.