



# Macrophyllum

January 2004

Newsletter of the  
**Siuslaw Chapter**  
**American Rhododendron Society**  
Post Office Box 1701  
Florence, OR 97439-0111

## From the VP:

Some years here along the central Oregon Coast our winters are more like an extended autumn/early spring and by this time in January we will have several varieties of rhododendrons in bloom. This year is not one of those years. However, between storms we can still frequently find some time to go out and into our gardens and check for some storm damage. If you haven't yet completed your transplanting, you still have plenty of time to do it.

While Shirley and I went to Hawaii for Thanksgiving we went to Hilo to take a quick look at the location for the Western Regional conference that will be held this coming September. The Hilo Hawaiian Hotel is very attractive and located right on the shore of Hilo bay. The hotel restaurant menu looked interesting and the prices were not too expensive for most selections. We also found out that their buffets are considered to be perhaps the best in the islands. The hotel has really reduced their rates for this conference and they told us that if anyone wants to arrive before the conference or stay after the conference the same rate would apply.

We also went to the home of two of the conference hosts, Sherla and Richard Bertelmann. They showed us their garden and nursery and discussed the upcoming conference with us. This is going to be a great conference and I will tell you more about it in future newsletters. If you are at all interested in attending this conference, start making your plans now.

We are planning to have an 'all Chapter' Gallagher Park work session, probably on March 4<sup>th</sup>. We will let you know by our February meeting. We expect to have members from other chapters join us. We will plant the first of our native rhododendrons that we have selected for the garden. We should only work about two hours and then have a pizza party. Mark your calendar for that day.

Our speaker for our January meeting will be our own Dr. Rhody, Jim Smith, who owns and operates Roadside Nursery in Mapleton. Jim has been preparing for this program for the past two years, taking pictures of the process of growing rhododendrons from seed. He has been successfully doing this for a number of years and will share with us how he does it. Raising rhododendrons from seed is both challenging and fun. I have been looking forward to this presentation for years.

Jim, a retired High School teacher, has produced many very nice, new rhododendrons, with which he has won many ribbons for the "Best New American Hybrid."

See you at the meeting, plan on bringing a friend to see this very informative program.

---

We want to congratulate Diane Ginn, Galen Baxter and Gene Cockeram for receiving Certificates of Appreciations from the Chapter. This was a first for our chapter. These three members received their certificates at our December Christmas Party.

*Everett Hall, Vice President*

**President:** Mike Bones  
(541) 997-3082  
<mailto:rhodies@harborside.com>

**Vice President:** Everett Hall  
(541) 997-3605

<mailto:evhall@msn.com>

**Secretary:** Kathy Bones  
(541) 997-3082

<mailto:rhodies@harborside.com>

**Treasurer:** Dianne Gilmour  
(541) 997-2302

<mailto:dichuck@oregonfcu.com>

### Board Members:

Jim Smith, Past President, Show Chair  
(541) 268-6821

<mailto:Rhody1@presys.com>

Jeannie Shields (04), Publicity  
(541) 902-8358

Dave Shepherd (05), Chapter Shirts  
(541) 997-2283

<mailto:drshepherd@oregonfast.net>

Karen Timmons (06)  
(541) 997-2480

<mailto:timmons@oregonfcu.com>

### Book Chairperson:

Marianne Horney  
(541) 997-6626

<mailto:maribob@oregonfast.net>

### Hospitality:

Paul & Freda Ziegelmaier  
(541) 902-0584

<mailto:semperfi@presys.com>

### Newsletter:

Charles M. King  
(541) 902-0469

<mailto:kingcm@presys.com>

Paul M. Wilson

(541) 902-9780

<mailto:jpwilson@oregonfcu.com>

## JANUARY CALENDAR

### Chapter Meeting

*Program:* Jim Smith

Growing Rhododendrons  
From Seed

*When:* 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday, Jan. 20

*Where:* Florence Middle School

*Cookie bakers:*

Marty Beam,  
Diane Ginn  
Betty Uchtyil

*Pre-meeting Dinner:*

5 p.m. at the Pier Point. Call  
Eileen at (541) 997-2222, or

<mailto:egmc@oregonfast.net>

**Reservations are needed**

### 2004 ARS DUES

Annual ARS dues for 2004

Family \$40

Individual \$35

Associate \$8

Call Dianne Gilmour at (541)  
997-2302

**WANTED** : Do you enjoy writing? We are looking for someone to write press releases about the Chapter events for local publications. Interested? Questions? Call Jeannie Shields 902-8358

### Rhododendron Events

**January 20, 2004:** Chapter Meeting with Jim (Dr. Rhody) Smith as speaker.

**March 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>, 2004:** From the **Portland Chapter** - Mark your calendars! It is the Orchid and Vireya show at the Washington Co. Fair Grounds, 873 NE 34<sup>th</sup> Ave, in Hillsboro. Many of you will remember our first ever Vireya and Orchid show this past October. The Oregon Orchid Society was duly impressed and has graciously invited us to participate in their show Whoop Hoo!!!

This is a judged show and sale. We are all invited to exhibit our vireyas and win a ribbon. The Portland Chapter of the ARS will be judging the vireyas but the Orchid Society will supply the ribbons. The show hours are Saturday 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. with the sale starting at 11 a.m. Sunday show and sale hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission \$3, free parking. For exhibitor information contact Lucie Sorenson-Smith at Bovees Nursery 503-244-9341

**May 12-16, 2004:** ARS Annual Convention, King of Prussia, PA

**September 22-26:** ARS Western Regional Conference, Hilo, HI

### Plant of the Month: *Rhododendron* 'Lees Scarlet'

This is one of the first rhododendrons to bloom in the new year. The buds open to a rosy crimson and fade to a bright pink with red spots. It can take temperatures down to minus five degrees F. The early blooming trait comes from one of its parents, *R. arboreum*, and the hardiness from the other parent, *R. caucasicum*. Lees Scarlet was hybridized by Lee, prior to 1850 in England. It took until 1958 before it was registered. The plant will get four feet tall in ten years, but like other plants, it does keep growing.

The early color is an added bonus to our garden following a cold, wet winter. It tells us that Spring is just around the corner. If you suffer from the winter blues, Lees Scarlet is a must for you.





**Dear Dr. Rhody**

New Years Eve we were surprised by a snowstorm. My Rhododendrons are covered with 2-3" of snow. Will this cause them to lose their buds? Is there anything I can do to protect my prize plants?

**Concerned**

Dear Concerned,

I too was blasted by our winter surprise. Snow is very unusual in our location.

The good news is there should be no damage to the flower buds from the snow. Cold air temperatures are the main cause of bud damage. This snowstorm had very mild temperatures, mostly above freezing. I believe it was not cold enough to damage the flower buds. Even in more severe cold snow can actually be an insulating factor for the buds, helping to protect them from the cold.

The only adverse effect from the snow could be damage to the limbs and plant due to the weight of the snow. The snow this year was heavy and water saturated. A large accumulation could break branches and even main stems. We all treasure round, dense, compact plant structures that allow snow to build up on the plants. If you have a plant that you don't want damaged, help it by brushing or carefully shaking the snow from the plant. If you remove the weight of the snow you will decrease the chance of damage from further accumulation.

Of course with the weather changes we have here in Oregon the rain may melt it all away before you finish your hot chocolate.

**Dr. Rhody** (aka Jim Smith)

**New Members**

The Siuslaw Chapter ARS welcomes new members:  
Chris & Ellen Atkin, Florence, OR

**Gallagher Park Beautification**

Gallagher's Park at Spruce and Hwy 126 was given to the City of Florence by the Gallagher family for use as a community rhododendron garden. It is refurbished and maintained jointly by the Siuslaw ARS Chapter, the Florence Garden Club and the City of Florence. Gene Cockeram is a Parks Commissioner for the City.

The Garden Club has done an excellent job of caring for the perimeter and the City tries to keep up with watering and new paths. The Siuslaw Chapter is behind, however, in taking care of the rhodies and interior of the park.

In a call for volunteers to spend a few hours to remove dead rhodies, trim back brush, mow, prune, deadhead, weed, rake up and spread mulch and fertilizer, the following members volunteered at the October Chapter meeting.

We need you; call Jenny Velinty at 997-7573 or Gene Cockeram at 997-2377 if you can help. Times and dates can be altered to accommodate your schedules.

- Feb. 5: G. Cockeram, P. & D. Peterson, J. Velinty
- Mar. 4: All members & friends work party & lunch
- Apr. 1: G. Cockeram, P. & L. Lanning
- May 6: B. & M. Horney, J. Velinty
- Jun. 3: G. Cockeram, J. Velinty & anyone else
- Sept. 2: All members & friends work party & lunch

**Chapter Report**

December is the only month of the year that your Chapters board does not meet. That does not mean that they are not busy.

We have reserved the Yurt meeting hall at Honeyman State Park for two picnics. Saturday June 12<sup>th</sup>, we will be voting on new officers at that time; Saturday August 28<sup>th</sup> will be our first meeting of the new rhododendron year.

There are some chapters that 6 or 8 times per year, We find that our 11 meetings don't do it, so we add in a couple of more gatherings, like the one on March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2004. It will be a work party at our Rhododendron Park here in Florence. We want to make sure that it is ready for the people to view when the flowers are in full bloom.

We are looking for a person who would be The Tour Chair. This person would coordinate garden tours for the chapter. Please help us make our chapter a little better.

**Mike Bones, President**