



Macrophyllum

JANUARY 2009

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

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UPCOMING Chapter Events

Meeting Topic- Rhododendrons for the Small Garden

Chapter Meeting – January 20, 2009 at 7PM at the Presbyterian Church on Hwy 101. Dinner before the meeting will be at Aztlan Mexican Restaurant on Hwy101 in Florence. Let Rosemary Rebello know by Friday, January 16th, 12:00 noon if you plan to attend. Phone - 997-6167 or Email -

tonyrosemay@charter.net

Gallagher Park Work Party – Wednesday, January 21 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. The park is at the corner of Spruce and Hwy 126. Gene Cockeram- City of Florence Park & Recreation Committee.

flowerman@q.com

Cookie Team- Jo Ann Wilson, Sylvia Smith, Sandi Jensen, and Nan Osbon

Membership Renewal- After the membership updates are caught up this month, all non-renewals will be removed from the chapter membership list and mailing list for the Macrophyllum newsletter.



Photo by: Eleanor Philp

Rhododendron Johnstoneanum Species

Predominate Flower Colors are white and yellow. The flower/truss is described as funnel-campanulate, sometimes fragrant, white, cream or pale greenish-yellow, often blotched yellow or flushed pink. The truss holds 2-5 flowers.

This early midseason bloomer is sometimes fragrant, grows to 4 feet in 10 years and can withstand hardiness temperatures of 10°F.

The foliage is broadly elliptic to elliptic, up to 4" long, with bristly margins. The plant habit is shrublike, broader than high with age.

Sub Genus: Rhododendron

Sub Section: Maddenia

Geographic Origin: India (Manipur, Mizoram)

A truly beautiful "J" for JANUARY choice!

In Memorium... Jim Gerdemann

Long time Siuslaw Chapter member and distinguished gardener, Jim Gerdemann passed away recently. Dr. Gerdemann created a wonderful garden in his Yachats home where he delighted many fortunate people who were able to visit this beautiful sanctuary filled with rhododendrons and azaleas.

There will be a memorial service for Dr. Gerdemann on Sunday, January 4, 2009 at the Overleaf Conference Center in Yachats, Oregon. If you would like to send a card or letter, please address to Janice Gerdemann, PO Box 391, Yachats, OR 97498.

Harold Greer, owner of Greer Gardens Nursery, 1280 Goodpasture Island Road, Eugene Oregon, and friend of Dr. Gerdemann, shared his recent message to our chapter president, Mike Bones:

"It is with sadness that I report the death of Jim Gerdemann of Yachats, Oregon last night. He lived in Urbana, Illinois most of his life, retiring to the Oregon coast about 25 years ago where he created a magnificent garden. Many of you have visited his wonderful garden where he grew many rhododendrons and other plants that generally would not grow in that climate area. When he was in Urbana he grew plants that would normally be grown in warmer climates. On the Oregon coast he grew plants that would normally be grown in more tropical climates. Jim passed away of age related causes and enjoyed his garden up until nearly the end. His garden will go on without him as it has been purchased and will be open at times as a private botanical garden."

Bonsai Books for Everyone

Chapter member Barb De Giorgio has just informed me that her husband has just donated several like-new books about Bonsai to the Siuslaw Library. It will take awhile for the staff to process these donations, but I'm sure by spring you will see them on the shelves. Here is a list of the books you can look for:

101 Essential Tips Harry Tomlison
DK Publishing 1996

Bonsai Harry Tomlinson
RD Home Handbooks 1995

The Complete Book of Bonsai H.
TomlinsonAbbeville Press 1991

Totally Bonsai Craig CoussinsTuttle
Publishing 2001

Bonsai, Illustrated Guide Sunset Book
Lane Publishing 1987

CRANBERRY CHUTNEY

1 1-ounce package cranberries
2 cups sugar
1 cup water
1 Tablespoon grated orange peel
1 cup orange juice
1 cup golden raisins
1 cup walnuts, chopped
1 cup chopped celery
1 medium apple, chopped (I use Granny Smith)
1 teaspoon ground ginger

In a 3-quart saucepan over medium heat, heat cranberries, sugar and water to boiling, stirring the mixture frequently. Reduce heat to low and simmer 15 minutes. Remove from heat; stir in remaining ingredients. Cover and refrigerate chutney. Thanks to Sandi Hennig for this great recipe she brought to the December potluck!

ARS Notice Newly Posted Online

2009 Annual Meeting

The Chapters of District 2 welcome visitors to the 2009 Annual Convention at Everett, WA, April 29 -May 3, 2009. The Convention offers educational seminars, exciting speakers, and exciting tours for beginner and experienced rhododendron enthusiasts. Non-members are welcome to attend. Featured excursions include the Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden, Meerkerk Gardens, Bill Stipe's Glynneden Gardens, Jeanine & Rex Smith's Rhody Ridge and Frank Fujioka's garden. Do put this exciting event on your calendar.

Flower Show Plans

Preliminary plans for the show organization are moving along and after the holiday season, will pick up again. Since the early flower show is scheduled to occur on Easter weekend, this is just a reminder that if you have a couple of hours to devote to volunteering for even a small part of the show, we will be eternally grateful for your assistance.

Show dates for 2009 are Saturday and Sunday, April 10-11 and May 16-17, our 102nd Annual Rhododendron Festival Show.

Visit our newly recreated chapter website to see how beautiful it looks and to get the latest information about chapter events. <http://www.siuslawars.org/>
Thanks to Paul Wilson, chapter webmaster!

A Blast from the Past... Florence Rhododendron History

While doing some genealogy research at the Siuslaw Library recently, I never found the obituary I was searching for, but instead found a historical article about rhododendrons in Florence. This letter to the editor, from the Friday, May 10, 1912 issue of the newspaper "The West" was published by The West Publishing Company in Florence. W. H. Weathreson was the Editor.

SAVE THE RHODODENDRON BUSHES

The people of Florence are making a most serious and irreparable blunder in cutting down, without discrimination, the beautiful natural shrubbery that lines the streets of the town. It is true that in many instances the natural growth obstructs the highway, but in clearing it away it is wanton destruction and nothing less, to cut down every green and flowering shrub from property line to property line, leaving a sixty foot-wide waste of shifting sand.

Florence is proud, and justly proud of her rhododendron display, and she has made the rhododendron festival famous from Seattle to the Golden Gate. There must be many lovers of the beautiful in the coming city by the sea. Why then, do these beauty lovers permit the town to be scenically ruined? Why permit needless destruction of the evergreen shrub which bears the town's lovely emblematic flower?

In a study of the town site of Florence one of the first problems which presents itself is that of preserving as far as possible, the native vegetation in order to prevent the sand drifting and shifting. Native shrubs and trees are beautiful in themselves and particularly so in Florence, where the rhododendron, the rose of the gods, grows and blooms as nowhere else in the world. Let the citizens of this favored place bear in mind that it is easier to preserve beauty than to restore it.

Every street should have a wide curb, and every tree and shrub growing within that curb, should be allowed to remain there as long as it is not an actual obstruction to traffic. In other, less favored towns it is necessary to plant trees and ornamental shrubbery in the curbs or parking. In Florence Nature has done the planting and she has been careful to select the most beautiful shrubs and trees that grow, with which to adorn the city that is to be.

Lischen M. Miller

Chapter Contacts

Editor's Corner:

This is one of the best times of year to visit the National ARS website and see the yearly choices for Rhododendrons of the Year. Each region has four flowers chosen. We are in the Northwestern Region. I present to you the **Deciduous Azalea: 'Cannon's Double'** R. 'Corneille' x R. 'Cecile.' The ARS description is as follows:

Flower pale yellow with deep pink veins and outer petals, reverse pink, tubular funnel-shaped, wavy edges, double, 2½" across, slightly fragrant. Dome-shaped truss has 7 - 8 flowers. Blooms late midseason. Leaves narrowly obovate to oblanceolate, flat, mucronate apex, cuneate base, 4¼" long, matte green, bullate. Open growth habit. Grows to a height of 6 - 7 ft. in 10 years. Hardy to -15°F (-26°C). Hybridized by Cannon



Photo by: Tijs Huisman

See the rest! Visit <http://www.rhododendron.org/roy08nw.htm>

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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.