

Happy New Year

## ***Macrophyllum***

JANUARY 2011

Newsletter of the  
**Siuslaw Chapter**  
**American Rhododendron Society**  
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### **UPCOMING Chapter Events**

**Meeting Topic-** Gordon Wylie speaks on Rhododendron Species

**Chapter Meeting** – this month's meeting will be on Tuesday, January 18 at 7:00 pm. Meet at the Presbyterian Church, 3996 Hwy 101 N in Florence. Dinner before the meeting this month will be at The Brown Hen (which is opening their restaurant just for us that night). Contact Rosemary Rebello for reservations (541) 997-6167 or [tonyrosemary@charter.net](mailto:tonyrosemary@charter.net)

**Gallagher Park Work Party** – Wednesday January 19 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@q.com](mailto:flowerman@q.com)

**Cookie Team-** Dan Bones, Merilee Mulvey, Nancy Fullmer, Karen Timmons

**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.

### DAN'S DELIGHT FOR JANUARY

#### R. Coastal Spice

This is a perfect choice to begin the New Year. The seed parent x pollen parent is (fragrantissum x burnanicum) x edgeworthii.

This predominantly white flower has an open funnel-campanulate, 4" across. The inside is white flushed light yellow with an irregular strong red flare on the dorsal lobe which ages to light pink, outside strong red aging to white. The truss holds 4-5 flowers. This is a fragrant plant.

The bloom time is Early Midseason. Height in 10 years is 5 feet. The leaves are elliptic, acute apex, rounded base, 5" long, deep impressed veins, glossy, dark green. The plant has a dense habit. This plant is a Lepidote. The hybridizer was Dr. Gerdeman and the reference # is ARS 024.



Photo by: Dick Cavender

### Sister Chapter Invitation

The Eugene Chapter ARS cordially invites you to attend our meetings. We meet at the Campbell Center, 155 High St., Eugene at 7pm on the second Thursday of each month, for cookies, coffee, conversation and a program. The dates are:

Jan.13, 2011 with Jack Olsen on “Rhodie Insights”

Feb. 10, 2011, Steve Samuels on the “BLM Hinsdale Garden Project”

March 10, 2011, a panel discussion on preparing a truss for showing and how to be a judge

We enjoy a pre-meeting dinner at about 5 pm, at a different restaurant each month. If you would like to join us call Helen Baxter, 541-461-6082 or Ted Hewitt at 541-687-8199 for location and reservations.

### Ron's Reviews

This informative book is being offered to the membership for \$21.00. That is a \$14.95 savings over the list price of the book. The non-member price is \$25.00. If you would like to purchase a copy of this book, you can contact Ron at 541-997-1957. He will also bring the book to the next chapter meeting if you would like to purchase a copy at that time.

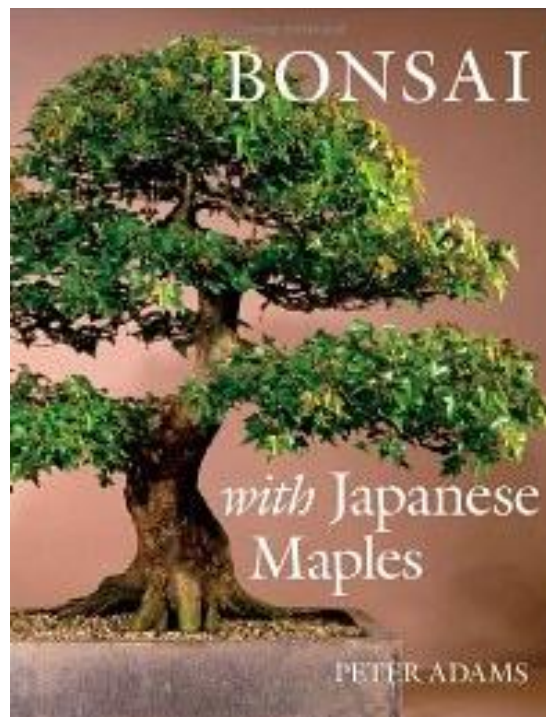
Author Peter Adams is an artist who has devoted over 50 years to the medium of bonsai. The author of ten other books and numerous articles on bonsai, he has also had a varied career in which he worked at portraiture, cartooning, advertising, TV, teaching, and as a bonsai nurseryman. He now lectures worldwide and is a bestselling author on the subject of bonsai as an art medium. Originally from England, Peter now lives in Washington State where he continues to work as an artist and author. Published in 2006 by Peter Adams.

Ron tells us that in the preface to the book, the author states...

“I am writing this book in response to literally hundreds of requests from bonsai enthusiasts over the years who could not find a copy of the first edition. Readers will recognize some themes from the original book though these reflect a more recent approach. Here the development process has been simplified and emphasis placed on the practical steps involved in leading “finished” bonsai towards the next levels of refinement.”

“There is however a deliberate mix of bonsai at different stages in their training, so the less experienced person can also identify with less completed trees and hopefully find some ideas to help him/her also evolve.”

“It is not a beginner's book; there are enough of those out there. It is an honest attempt to look at bonsai as art objects and to critique and assess them from an artist's perspective. If you gain some small insights here and there, I shall be delighted.”



## Rhododendron Terminology

It's that time of the year when you're homebound due to weather conditions and no way are you going outside in that lightening storm! This is a good time to brush up on all those technical words you see in periodicals and websites describing rhododendrons. We'll do one for each letter of the alphabet... well, most of the letters!

<b>Axillary-</b>	the angle between the stem and leaf.
<b>Bullate-</b>	puckered or quilted appearance.
<b>Coriaceous-</b>	leathery in texture.
<b>Declinate-</b>	bent or curved downward or forward.
<b>Epiphyte-</b>	a plant growing non-parasitically upon another.
<b>Form (formae)-</b>	a minor variation within a species that is sufficiently distinctive to warrant recognition as a separate taxon. In cultivated plants, it is current practice to name these forms as cultivars.
<b>Grex-</b>	all the seedlings of a particular cross.
<b>Hirsute-</b>	with rough or coarse, more or less, erect hairs.
<b>Inflorescence-</b>	an arrangement of flowers on a stem or axis, it may comprise a cluster of flowers or a single flower.
<b>J-K...</b>	anyone have an entry for these letters???
<b>Lamina-</b>	blade of a leaf.
<b>Mucronate-</b>	having a leaf tip terminating in a hard point that is a continuation of the midvein.
<b>Nectary-</b>	nectar secreting gland at the base of the corolla.
<b>Orbicular-</b>	flat with the outline circular or nearly circular; disc shaped.
<b>Pedice-</b>	the stalk of an individual flower in an inflorescence.
<b>Quadrata-</b>	square or nearly square.
<b>Rugose-</b>	wrinkled.
<b>Sessile-</b>	without a stalk.
<b>Tomentose-</b>	covered with matted, wooly hair.
<b>Undulate-</b>	wavy.
<b>Vein-</b>	a vascular bundle in a leaf blade or petal.
<b>Whorl-</b>	three or more leaves or branches at a node; circle of flower parts as sepals, petals or stamens.
<b>Xylem-</b>	tissues in plants through which water and food is conveyed up the stem from the roots, also furnishing support to the plant.
<b>Y-Z...</b>	Where is Gene Cocheram when you need him?!

**Now you know your ABC's of Rhododendron Terminology!**



**Rhododendron xcoriifolium  
buxifolium x rugosum**

Height - 5m - terrestrial  
Leaves - ovate-elliptic - 5 x 2.5cm strongly impressed midrib and lateral veins  
Flowers - cylindrical - 3cm up to 12 per umbel  
Location - Malaysia: Sabah: Mt. Kinabalu 3050-3200m  
Epithet - "leathery leaves"

This candy colored Vireya looked good enough to eat when I spied it on the Vireya.net website devoted to Vireyas. You can access it with this link: <http://www.vireya.net/gallery-nathyb.htm>. This photo was located in the Vireya Natural Hybrid Gallery. The photo is by C. Callard and was taken at the Royal Botanic Garden in Edinburgh. Did you know that the first published description of a Vireya appeared in 1822? Read more about the history of the Vireya on the website when you click on the tab INFORMATION, history will be one of the choices.

## Chapters Sharing Great Tips

Other chapters in our region often have great articles that your editor feels we might benefit from; this one is a good example. Those of you who did not attend the Western Regional Conference last October or did but weren't able to attend this very popular "hands-on" session will appreciate this information. Thanks to the Portland Chapter ARS for this great article **by Irving G. Snyder, Jr.**

**Gordon Wylie**, an ARS member for over 30 years and a former President of ARS, had a stimulating presentation at the Western Regional on growing Rhododendrons from seed. I have always viewed growing Rhododendrons from seed as a task better left to the long-time Rhododendron expert hybridizers. To my surprise, Gordon made it sound quite simple and each session attendee left the meeting with a plastic container planted with seed from a newly-created hybrid. With minimal attention, I found my seeds have sprouted now, two weeks later. Following are some seed propagation basics in a hand-out from Gordon.

1. Rule one is careful hygiene. A weak solution of household bleach applied to tools and containers is your best friend.
2. Sow seed on the surface of the medium and never cover with more medium.
3. The seed container should be a closed environment, but with drainage, providing essentially 100% humidity.
4. Bottom heat of 70-75 degrees F. probably aids/speeds germination but is not a necessity. However, the container should not be in a cold situation, such as outdoors, or an unheated space in the winter.
5. Never allow sunlight to reach the container. Artificial lights 4"-6" overhead, though, will assist initial growth.
6. Begin gradually exposing the seedlings to air when cotyledons (first pair of juvenile leaves) appear. Don't forget to keep seedlings watered after air exposure begins. Gentle misting is the best method.
7. Misting every 10 to 14 days with a weak 25%-50% solution of liquid fertilizer after the first true leaves (second pair) appear will assist initial growth.
8. Prick out (using a sharpened pencil) individual plants to a growing container after two or more sets of true leaves appear. Careful, delicate handling is needed at this stage. Timing isn't critical as plants may be kept almost indefinitely in the germination container so long as moisture is supplied consistently.
9. The next transplant can be to individual containers and outdoors if you have a protected spot such as a cold frame when frost is possible. After further growth, the plants may be treated the same as young plants from a nursery. In addition to these basics, there were a couple of other things that impressed me. After six months in a warm environment, the plants grown from seed were about the same size as plants grown from cuttings. The growing container for the little seedlings coming from the germination container is nothing more than a plastic flat to hold 4" pots with a newspaper lining and filled with bark mulch. The seedlings at this stage are planted about 3" apart in a hole dibbled with the same pencil you used to separate the seedlings coming from the germination container. Finally, the germination medium in the original container is about an inch and a half of perlite in the bottom with about an inch of wet, coarse peat on top. The seeds are just sprinkled across the top of the peat moss.
10. Enjoy your creations and anticipate the flowers. Check with me next spring on the progress of the seedlings!

## Editor's Corner:

I'm going to use my corner this month to recommend a great community resource where I volunteer once a week shelving books and taking care of the plants. During this time of recession and belt-tightening, it is helpful to know about free community options. Our tax dollars are really at work benefitting us with this valuable resource!

The local Siuslaw Public Library and the Worldwide Internet.... What wonderful tools at our fingertips to use as a resource assistant and research guide. You don't even need to own a computer!

Did you know that our local Siuslaw Public Library has almost 20 computers available to the public for use during library business hours? Just walk in the door and ask the librarian to assign you an access code and then grab a seat in front of one of the computers and go to work!

You say you have your own laptop, but no Internet service? Bring it to the library and pick a nice comfy chair or table and link to the library's free wireless Internet service. My point is that there is no reason not to take advantage of this wonderful option that is available to every one of us in Florence. We are so lucky to have the library at a time when other counties in Oregon are closing their library systems or have tiny little libraries with not much to offer.

If you prefer the comfort of your own home to surf the Internet, you can also access the library's website to find gardening books you may want to check out. There are hundreds of books, in the non-fiction section alone, that can assist you with plants, gardening, weather, local geology, and all the other subjects that gardeners utilize. The librarians are a wealth of information about where to look for information and they can even order book loans for you from other libraries in the national system.

So, don't let anything stop you from your pursuit of learning! If one of Ron's books isn't available to buy, you can look it up at the library and see if they have a copy. And on your way out... could you whisper a few nice words to the plants? They really enjoy a compliment once in awhile!

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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.