



Macrophyllum

June 2007

Newsletter of the
Siuslaw Chapter
American Rhododendron Society
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UPCOMING Chapter Events

June Project- We will groom the rhodies at the Presbyterian church. Meet at the church at 5pm on June 19th. At 6:30 meet at ICM for dinner.

Chapter Meeting – Annual Potluck on June 10. Meet at the Honeyman Park yurt, we gather at noon and eat at one, bring your own service, hot dish and or a side dish/dessert

Gallagher Park Work Party – Thursday , June 21st 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.

Western Fall Regional – is this September 21-23 in Newport, Oregon. Contact Mike Bones for more information.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT By: Mike Bones

My thanks to all members of the Siuslaw Chapter for your contributions to the 100th Anniversary of the Rhododendron Festival. And my congratulations to you all for creating such a successful event! From the years of planning to the clean-up of the largest Rhododendron Flower Show ever held in the Western Hemisphere, you have all helped to put our Siuslaw Chapter in the worldwide news. Our second-ever parade float was such an amazing piece of art; it was first place in my eyes.

Your commitment to the success of this event is admirable. You went out into your gardens to check the flowers, days ahead of time, looking for the best one on the bush, only to find out the day before the show that a petal had fallen off, so you spent more time looking for the best again. The trusses were picked, brought in and the tag was filled out. The blossom was then classified, double checked and placed into the proper display rack, passing through many hands along the way. The world-renowned group of Judges gave their greatest efforts to honor the Best in the Show.

Hundreds of viewers gave their time to come into the Florence Event Center to view the rhododendrons and azaleas. What an education for them to see the different colors and sizes, to be able to smell the fragrance and to see the differences in foliage of so many rhododendrons. The large display of our own R. macrophyllum brought many to a stop, realizing for the first time that they are not "just pink." The book sales, the new members, the many questions answered, the Siuslaw school childrens' fantastic art display -- all together, we truly fulfilled the mission of the Siuslaw Chapter..

Thank you to all.

Saving The Macrophyllum...

At the Jan, Feb and Mar meetings, Cheryl Prchal announced to the chapter that there were 50 lots up at Heceta Reserve (the new development just north of Heceta Beach Road) that were going to be cleared for new homes.

Cheryl said, "I was working with Mike Cochrane at ANB Construction and he told me that members of the chapter could come dig macrophyllums from these lots. Because of the small response, I thought they were all going to be lost. Ron and I planned to take some but couldn't take all of them."

"When lots 4 and 5 were cleared, Mike had about 20 nice rhodies dug up and set aside for anyone who wanted them. Jerry Nordin decided he wanted some for the rhody parade float so he got a work party together and we went up and "containerized" some for the float."

There are still a lot of macrophyllum that are going to be destroyed. There are tons of small ones if someone wants to take the time to hunt for them. If you have questions about how to get some of the many plants still available, contact Cheryl or Ron Prchal at rhodyholic@msn.com or by phone at 902-7637.



Thank you to Cheryl Prchal for these two photos from the digging project! Above you can see Gene Cocheram posing in front of a large specimen plant! To the right is Ron Prchal grinning about the great macrophyllum he is about to take home!

Your editor particularly enjoyed driving around Florence and along the coast highway these past few weeks, marveling at the enormous number of macrophyllums blooming this year. After living in Florence for only four years, I would say this is the best blooming year I've seen. Aren't we all so lucky to live here!



Highlights of the 2007 Florence Rhododendron Festival weekend. Our chapter float won third prize in the parade and our annual flower show had 1381 entries...a record and fabulous array of colors. People who visited the show were in awe of the displays! Several families joined the club as a result and many people went away with a new respect for this incredible effort by the club to inform the community and guests about Rhododendrons and Azaleas. Photos provided by Charles King. *Thank You!*



SECRETARY'S REPORT By: Kathy Bones

The Board was sorry to accept the letter of resignation from our Vice President, Jeannie Shields. We thank Jeannie for her hard work and marvelous suggestions of ways to help make our Chapter the best in the world!! We will still be seeing Jeannie at meetings and asking her advice about Chapter adventures! Thanks Jeannie!!!

By now everyone knows that the show was a huge success! Our gratitude goes out to Jim and Sylvia Smith for their years of dedication to chairing shows and making the job so easy for us to work at. After quite a few years of chairing the flower shows, Jim is retiring. He's not going anywhere and will be available to help the next Chairperson. Following in his footsteps will be scary, but the instructions Jim left makes it an easy task! If you are willing to take a turn at this exciting adventure, see a board member.

The beautiful float we had in the Rhododendron Parade was wonderful. Thanks to Jerry Nordin and his crew for their work on creating this work of art!!! If you didn't hear, we took the 3rd place award! Our thanks also go to Fred and Ann Whitney for riding our float and giving it more class! If you didn't see the beautiful Sweepstake Trophy donated by Jim & Sylvia Smith, you can visit the Smiths at their home and see it there! Yes, Jim & Sylvia won this trophy!

The nominating committee submitted Linda Swarz for the position of Member at Large on the board for the next 3 years. Nominations will be accepted from the floor at the June picnic for anyone else who is willing to run. If you want to nominate someone, be sure to have their approval first.

What did you think of our mugs? They make great remembrances from the 100th Anniversary of the Rhododendron Festival! If you didn't get one, they're still available to purchase from our store at the general meeting. The price is \$6.00.

Our Gallagher's Park project is progressing nicely! The City Council has "okayed" our project with a few stipulations. We are waiting to see what those stipulations will be.

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Welcome new members:

Ron Sjogren, Dan & Dina Pavlis, Bob & Debbie Talamas and their daughter Allison Byrde, Roy & Jeanie Brown, Cathy & Lou Ures, and Paulie Fortier.

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.