



Macrophyllum

June 2004

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

President's Message

Being your president for the past five years has been a rewarding experience. All of you have made my way easier. Your elected working board is on the ball, they bring fresh ideas to the chapter, they are dedicated to not only our chapter but also to the Rhododendron Society; because of this as I step down, I feel confident that you are in good hands.

Thank you for all of your support.

Mike Bones, President

Thank You, Mike

Mike Bones has been our chapter president for the past five years. These have been exciting years, in terms of the growth of our chapter's membership, the richness of chapter activities and its contribution to the community. His enthusiasm for our society and his boundless energy for all that he does is infectious and has had a significant impact on our society and the conduct of our activities.

He will now become the new Past-President where his experience and counsel will be of great benefit to me and the other members of the Board of Directors.

In addition Mike will serve as the Chair of the Membership committee so that we will continue to attract more members. He has also agreed to serve as our Master of Ceremonies at our social functions.

We thank Mike for his service as our President. We will continue to build on the many successes the Chapter has achieved under his direction.

Everett Hall

Picnic Details

Our first potluck picnic of the season is Saturday, June 12th, with a second potluck picnic held on August 28th. These picnics are great fun; lots of delicious things to eat with wonderful friends. We will gather beginning at 12 noon, eat about 1:00 p.m. and have our plant game after that. We will also have a short business meeting. As usual we will be in the yurt in Honeymoon Park on the East Side of Highway 101. There will be an A.R.S. sign by the driveway on the South side of the road about two blocks east of highway 101. Bring your own table service, a hot dish and a side dish [salad, dessert, appetizer, etc] and a beverage if you want to drink something other than water or coffee, which will be provided by the chapter. If you want to join in the fun of our plant game then bring a plant.

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:roadside6@msn.com>

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

Dave Shepherd (05), Chapter Shirts
(541) 997-2283
<mailto:drshepherd@oregonfast.net>

Paul Ziegelmaier (06)
(541) 902-0584
<mailto:semperfi@presys.com>

Book Chairperson:
Marianne Horney
(541) 997-6626
<mailto:maribob@oregonfast.net>

Hospitality:
Paul & Freda Ziegelmaier
(541) 902-0584
<mailto:semperfi@presys.com>

Newsletter:
Ellen & Chris Atkin
(541) 997-3247
<mailto:atkin@oregonfast.net>

CALENDAR

JUNE

Chapter Meeting

What: Picnic

When: Saturday, June 12
Meet at noon, eat at 1 pm

Where: Honeyman Yurt at West Woahink in Honeyman State Park. **See page 3 for a map.**

Bring: Two dishes, your table service and beverage.

Action: Bring a plant and play our plant game.

JULY

No meeting

AUGUST

Chapter Meeting

What: Picnic

When: Saturday, August 28
Meet at noon, eat at 1pm

Where: Honeyman Yurt

BANDON NATIVE AZALEA TOUR

Tuesday, June 8

Meet at 8:30 a.m. at the Sears parking lot in Florence.

Mike Bones will be leading us on a tour of wild, native azaleas in the Bandon area.

THE CONNIE HANSEN GARDEN TOUR

1931 N.W. 33rd Street, Lincoln City, Oregon 541-994-6338

Tuesday, June 22

To caravan, meet at 8:30 a.m. at the Fred Meyer parking lot, adjacent to the gas station; or, meet us at 10:00 a.m. at The Connie Hansen Garden (contact me if you need directions).

This will be a guided tour, cost of \$3.00 per person, and we are very fortunate to have Robert "Scotty" Scottens, the head gardener, providing the tour for us. The Garden House will be open the day of our tour.

THE THYME GARDEN HERB COMPANY TOUR

20546 Alsea Highway

Alsea Highway

Unfortunately, we won't be able to tour The Thyme Garden Herb Company this year as their tour schedule is entirely booked through the summer. At their request, I'll be contacting them the first of 2005 to make reservation for a tour for next summer.

SPECIAL REQUEST

We are going to be putting together a photo display board and a photo album of our annual garden tours for use in recruiting new members and for the enjoyment of club members. Since I haven't taken pictures at the previous tours, I'm hoping that any of you with duplicate photos will be willing to donate them for these projects. Thanks!

Debbie Peterson

541-997-1212

peterson1212@msn.com

Dear Dr. Rhody,

I purchased a few Rhododendrons at a local nursery. I really enjoyed their blooms, but now the new growth that is coming out is very long, more than a foot in some instances. The growth seems very weak and droopy. Is there anything I can do to help make them stronger??

Mike

Dear Mike,

I'm glad you enjoyed your plants during their blooming. Hopefully you will be pleased with them as they grow and mature. You can help eliminate long droopy branches on your younger plants by, of all things, removing them.

The commercial growers call this "pinching". They pinch or cut off the new growth right next to the old wood. The result is that instead of one long branch you end up with multiple shorter branches (and a bushier plant!).

It is perfectly safe to pinch at this time of the year. Other growth will occur and if properly watered and nourished your lovely Rhododendron will set bud and bloom again next year.

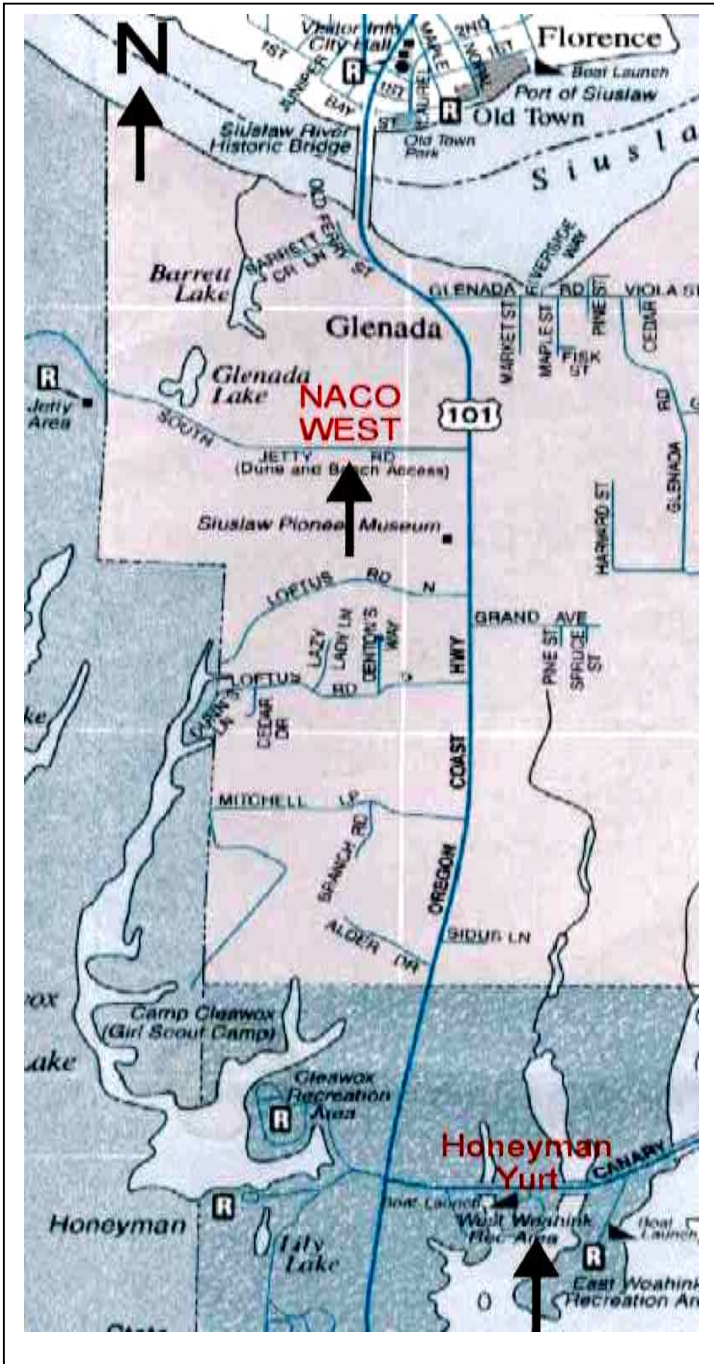
Good Pinching

Dr. Rhody

I would like to take some extra space to once again thank the wonderful, active, members of the Siuslaw Chapter for helping to put on two great Rhododendron Flower Shows. Our early show was the best ever with 450 entries. Many of us were very apprehensive as time for the late show approached. The blooming in our area was well ahead of normal and our show was being held on the latest day we've ever had.

We begged everyone to bring entries and it worked. We had 662 entries, far more than we hoped for. Sixty one different people won ribbons and over 2000 people viewed the show. Once again - Thank You chapter members - you are a great group.

Dr. Rhody (aka Jim Smith)



New Members

The Siuslaw Chapter ARS welcomes new members:

- Merilee Mulvey, Florence
- Jackie Marble, Florence
- Bill & Mary Curtis, Florence
- Alan & Janet Pegelow, North Bend
- Frank & Fay Morris, Florence
- Bob & Lorall Woerner, Florence

Rhododendron Events

September 21-26, 2004: ARS Western Regional Conference, Hilo, HI

November 2-4, 2004: New Zealand Rhododendron Association 60th Anniversary Conference, Gore, Southland, New Zealand. For information contact Kathy Falconer, <mailto:falconer.di@clear.net.nz>

Shirts For Sale

Sweat shirts with Florence Logo: \$14.00, XL. T-Shirts--L and XL \$7.00, 2X,\$9.00, 3X \$10.00
 Call Dave Shepherd 997-2283.
 They will also be available at the meeting.

Secretary's Report

May 11, 2004 Board Meeting:

The board met at Abby's prior to driving around Florence to judge the nominated yards for the "City of Rhododendron's Contest". This is an enjoyable adventure we look forward to every year! Many yards were viewed and a winner was chosen. Honorable mentions were included, too. The announcement was made at the Rhododendron Show, Rhody Festival weekend.

T-shirts are available for great prices!! See Dave and Jan Shepherd if interested.

Two more restaurants were suggested for before meeting dinner to add to our list. They were the 9th Street Grill (barbeque) and Hall's Florence Café. Suggestions about our dinners are always welcome.

That was all our business meeting consisted of this month as we had many yards to see and enjoy.

Happy Spring!!

Kathy Bones, Secretary

From the VP

Our annual plant auction meeting was a huge success. We had a good turn out of members and our auctioneers. Mike Bones and Jim Smith kept us completely involved in the fun of the auction by describing and then selling the plants. There were lots of plants donated, including some hard-to-find varieties. The annual auction is our principle source of funding for our chapter activities. Thanks to all of you who donated plants and joined in the spirited bidding, our treasury now looks healthy for the coming season. The Board of Directors will meet in July and develop next year's budget. They will also be making plans for next year's programs and activities. If there is a particular speaker you would like or a special topic you would like us to bring you, please let one of the board members know before July 1st.

We had some great garden tours last month. Pete and Debbie Peterson really enhanced our enjoyment of spring with the tours they have arranged for us and they have more tours scheduled for us this month.

Because the date of our main show was late this year and our rhododendrons and azaleas bloomed earlier than usual, we had anticipated our show might not be much larger than our early show, so we were all very pleased when we had 662 entries. We all had a good time working together putting up and taking down the show and helping doing all of the many jobs that have to be done to make the show go smoothly and be the great success that it is. We had people drive hundreds of miles to enter trusses and some people who live in the mid-west and eastern states had heard about our show and made a special effort to come see it. We are building a wonderful reputation for our chapter - - and we have only just begun! In 2007 our chapter is inviting all of the other chapters in District Four to join with us in putting on the largest and most spectacular rhododendron show ever presented in North America. The Show committee, under the leadership of Jim Smith, is already making plans and anticipating what will be required for this event. In the meantime, take good care of your plants and, maybe, acquire a few more. This big show is only three blooming seasons away!

As most of you know, the A.R.S. is organized by Chapter -District- Society. We are in District 4, which covers all of the State of Oregon and a portion of the State of Washington.

Speaking of taking good care of your plants, now is the time to give your plants a light feeding. I don't give my plants a heavy fertilizing during the late spring or summer, but they do need to replenish some of the strength they expended producing those beautiful blooms for you. You should also remove the spent trusses [dead-heading] so your plants can put their energy into new growth and prepare themselves for next years blooming season instead of developing seeds. If your plants have branches that should be removed, now is the time to do your pruning.

The A.R.S. Western Regional conference registration forms should be in the next A.R.S. Journal. This conference will be held September 21-26 in Hilo, Hawaii and will probably be one of those conferences that people will still be talking about years later.

The Macrophyllum Committee continued its search for the better forms of *R. macrophyllum* that grow in our Oregon Central Coast area. We didn't find quite as many new plants as in previous years but we did have some successes- some nice really early blooming plants, a nice white up the North Fork Siuslaw and a really dark [almost as red as we have ever seen] growing in Greentrees, Florence. A truss of this plant won the best *R. macrophyllum* trophy at our show. I tried to find a reported white blooming plant on the Sutton Beach road and finally spotted one with the help of my binoculars. After twice trying to make my way through the jungle to get to it, I gave up. Next year I will return [me and General MacArthur] armed with a machete. Later I found out the plant I was trying to reach was a different plant from the one reported! Being a plant hunter can be frustrating. Of course, all of you are members of this committee as this is a Chapter project. Bob Macintyre and Marianne Horny have now joined Gene Cockeram and myself as 'core committee' members. When you find one of the better forms we are searching for [20 or more flowers in a nice full truss, good foliage, flowers dark pink, white, red, picotee, etc.] let one of us brave and stalwart plant explorers know where it is so we get a picture of it, mark it with surveyors tape, and eventually try to propagate it.

Everett Hall, Vice President