



Macrophyllum

May 2003

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

Dr. Rhody

Dr. Rhody will be slightly different this month. I wish to take some time and space to say a few words about our early show.

The most important comment is - **Thank you members.** A successful show is based on an active participating membership. I would rate our group at the highest possible level. We had great help in set up, entries, runners, clerks, recorders, welcome table, tear down, raffle sales and information providers. We had 334 entries in the early show. Thirty different people, members and non-members, won ribbons. We gave 10 trophies and hundreds of community members viewed the show. You are among the very best. I am looking forward to working with you all again during the Rhododendron Days Show. Once again, many thanks for your participation and for a job **WELL DONE!**

The time is approaching when we need to keep an eye out for some of the pests that can attack our favorite plants. Be observant, keep your garden area clean and debris free, and you can be ahead of possible problems.

Dr. Rhody

Editor's note: In other contexts, Dr. Rhody is also known as Jim Smith, Show Chairman, Past President and husband of Sylvia.

On The Book Front

Hey, all you book lovers! There will be many new books at the May Rhody Show, as well as some old favorites and also those that some of you ordered at our last meeting.

Some of the new titles I hope to have available are:

- Natural Gardening in Small Spaces
- The New Book of Salvias
- Portraits of Himalayan Flowers
- The Explorer's Garden
- Penstemons
- Stearn's Dictionary of Plant Names for Gardeners
- Bonsai: Its Art, Science, History and Philosophy
- Cox's Guide to Choosing Rhododendrons
- The Smaller Rhododendrons
- Magnolias
- Japanese Maples
- Rhododendron Portraits
- The Illustrated Rhododendron
- The Book of Rhododendrons

Some of these books would make wonderful gifts for Mother's Day, Father's Day, graduation, birthdays, weddings, anniversaries, etc.

Remember - at 40% off you can't beat the price!

See you at the Rhody Show!

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Book Chairperson

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MAY CALENDAR

May Board Meeting

(2nd) Tuesday, May 13

7 pm at Eileen McKenney's

Rhododendron Show

Set up, Thurs., May 15, 3:30 pm

Sat. & Sun., May 17 - 18

Entries: 7 to 9 am, Saturday

Display: Saturday after judging

Until 5 pm & Sunday 1 - 4 pm

Florence Event Center

May General Meeting

(3rd) Tuesday, May 20

7 pm at NACO West

Campground, So. Jetty Road

Program

Plant Auction:

Bring a suitable plant

Pre-Meeting Dinner

So. Jetty Betty's at NACO-5 pm

Choice of halibut or prime rib

Reservations by May 16

Contact Eileen McKenney at

(541) 997-2222, or

mailto:egmc@oregonfast.net

Cookies

Betty McColl

Helen Swanson

Nadine White

Gallagher Park Work Party

(Last) Saturday, May 31, 10 am



***R. luteiflorum*: Plant of the Month**

Gene and Doris Cockeram grow a rhododendron that is not widely distributed. *R. luteiflorum* was found growing in northern Burma in 1953. As far as I can tell, it has not been located any place else.

The Cockeram plant is wider than it is tall. It is about four feet tall and nearly eight feet wide. The one-inch campanulate flowers are lemon-yellow with a tinge of green and are held in trusses of three to six flowers. The dark green foliage is small, lance-shaped and, if you crush it in your hand, has a spicy fragrance.

I'm uncertain about how hardy this rhododendron is. I would think that, because it comes from Burma, it is probably about as hardy as a *R. maddenii* hybrid and would treat it as such. Gene grows his plant in a protected location with good drainage.

Gene has some seedlings from his plant that he is bringing to the plant auction. So you will all have a chance to acquire this unusual and pretty plant.

Everett Hall, Vice President

From the VP

All year long we plant, transplant, fertilize, water, weed and care for our rhododendrons and azaleas and we enjoy them for the beautiful shrubs they are. But what really turns us on is when they come into bloom. Suddenly our gardens are alive with color and we know that all of the time spent working with our plants was well worth while. 'Bloom time' also means 'show time'. Despite our worries about our cold wet spring, our early show was up to its usual high standard. Chapter members worked together putting up the display racks and doing all of the other tasks required to put on a successful show and then, after the show, taking down the racks and cleaning up the display area. We had a great time doing all of this. It was fun working together.

The weekend following our show the Southwest and Eugene chapters had their shows and several of our members entered trusses in them. More shows are coming up fast. The Eugene Chapter show will be held Mother's day weekend [May 10 & 11]. They have chosen to move their show from the Valley River Mall to the Oakway Mall on Coburg Road in Eugene. If you are in Eugene that weekend be sure to see it or, better yet, enter some of your beauties in it. They will be accepting entries until 10:00 a.m. Saturday morning.

Our main show will be held during our annual Rhododendron Festival [May 17 & 18]. We will have hundreds of people come to enjoy our show with many 'out of town' and 'out of state' visitors. As always, we hope that you will all participate, in not only setting up and working in the show, but also in entering trusses in the show. We want to put on a show that is a real 'eye- stopper'. Please bring your trusses to be entered as early as possible. Entries open at 7:00a.m. and close at 9:00 am.

Now is the time to give your rhododendrons a good feeding because they are starting to put on new growth. *R. macrophyllum* is starting to really come into bloom now. So keep alert for superior plants, those with white or nearly red flowers early bloomers and late blooming forms. Last year we found several really out-standing specimens and we hope to do as well this year.

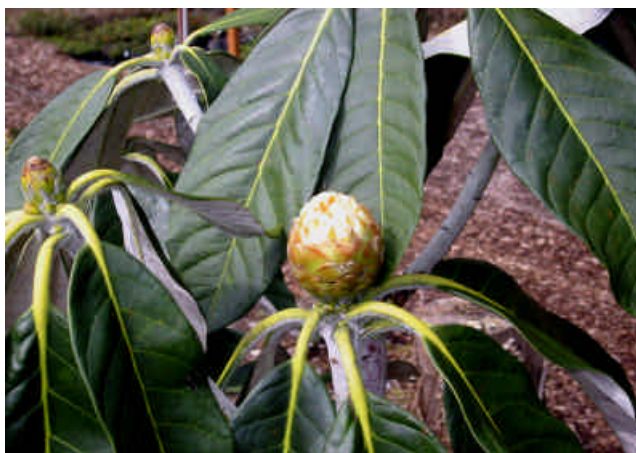
Our next meeting, on May 20th, will be our annual plant auction. This is our primary fund raising effort of the year and how we finance chapter activities. We all donate plants and then the fun begins led by our principle auctioneer, President Mike Bones. This is your chance to purchase some of the varieties you saw at the show. Come early and have dinner with the other chapter members, then join in the bidding and fun that goes with our auctions. Don't forget your checkbooks. Friends are always welcome.

Everett Hall, Vice President



Rhododendron macabeanum: Breathtaking!

The blue ribbon-winning truss from this exceptional big-leaved rhododendron, shown in the photo to the left, was one of the many treats of the Early Show. The truss came from a plant started from seed by Dr. James Gerdemann and subsequently raised by Mike Bones. Now some 12/13 years of age, the plant has produced trusses for 3 years and is approximately 5 feet tall. Native to northeast India at elevations to 9,000 feet, *R. macabeanum* is reported to be hardy to 10°F. The characteristic white woolly indumentum is visible on the bottoms of the leaves. Given time, *R. macabeanum* develops into trees that can be as high and wide as 25 feet or more. Mike's two photos of his plant, shown below, convey a feeling of what it would be like to have one in your garden. His results demonstrate that, provided with protection from wind, partial shade and space, we can enjoy *Rhododendron macabeanum* in our coastal area.



The Early Rhody Truss Show Awards

Class / Plant Name / Contributors

- Best Elepidote Species
Cinnabarinum Jim Gerdemann, Yachats
- Best Lepidote Species
Russatum Wine Larry & Sandi Jensen, Noti
- Best White or Light Pink Hybrid
Sappho Gene Cockeram, Florence
- Best Dark Pink Hybrid
Thurston Skei Betty & Charles King, Florence
- Best Dark or Black Red Hybrid and Best in Show
Peter Faulk Gene Cockeram, Florence
- Best Purple Lepidote Hybrid
Unknown variety Jim & Sylvia Smith, Mapleton
- Best Azalea
San Diego Judy Johnson, Florence
- Best Fragrant Rhododendron
Maddenii Gene Cockeram, Florence
- People's Choice of Best New American Hybrid
Siltcoos Sunset Gene Cockeram, Florence



Gene Cockeram was awarded the perpetual Sweepstakes Award at the Early Show. The award is given annually for the most cumulative points earned by all ribbon-winning trusses submitted by a single person.



Upcoming Rhododendron Events

May 10 - 11, 2003

Eugene Chapter Rhododendron Show
Oakway Mall
Eugene, OR

May 17 - 18, 2003

Siuslaw Chapter Rhododendron Show
Rhododendron Festival
Florence, OR

June 8, 2003

Chapter Picnic
Yurt at West Woakink
Honeyman State Park
Florence, OR

August 23, 2003

Chapter Picnic
Yurt at West Woakink
Honeyman State Park
Florence, OR

October 2 - 5, 2003

ARS Western Regional Conference
Seaside, Oregon

Recent issues of the ARS Siuslaw Chapter newsletter *Macrophyllum* may be accessed at:

<http://www.oregonfast.net/~jpwilson/SiuslawARS>

Other interesting, useful information on rhododendrons is to be found at these net sites!

American Rhododendron Society:

<http://www.rhododendron.org>

Rhododendron & Azalea News:

<http://www.rhododendron.org/news/home.htm>

Eugene Chapter, ARS:

<http://www.eugene-chapter-ars.org>

Rhododendron Species Foundation:

<http://www.rhodygarden.org/index.html>

Oregon State University:

<http://www.osu.orst.edu/dept/hort/dpd/index.htm>

Secretary's Report: April 8, 2003 Siuslaw Chapter ARS Board Meeting

- At the monthly board meeting, Jim Smith reported that he was very pleased with all the terrific help during the early show. There were 334 trusses entered with 30 different ribbon winners. The book display and sales were great due to the efforts of Marianne Horney. A few possibilities for improvements for the May show were identified, but the follow-up meeting will be held after the late show so as to include both shows in the discussion.
- The May show will include a "fake rhody" category that is 3D, so start now to build, arrange, mold or what ever you can come up with some kind of entry for that area. Just have fun with this!
- A motion was made and passed that any speakers at our general meetings who would like to sell or auction plants, must give a percentage of the sales to our chapter. This is not to include non-profit organizations.
- Paul Wilson and Charles King have developed a preliminary outline for our web site and will be working on it this summer; they hope to have it phased in by fall. Contact Paul, Charles or any board member if you are interested working on this project. For anyone interested in computers it should be a wonderful opportunity to expand their knowledge.
- Gene Cockeram thanked Jenny Velinty, Mary West and Todd Wilson for helping him at the monthly Gallagher Park work party. Don't forget the last Saturday of the month is your opportunity to help the park look it's best. The *Rhododendron 'Dame Nellie Melba'* in the park is in full bloom and is a must to visit. Look for an up coming article in the Siuslaw News about the history of Gallagher Park with which Gene helped.
- There apparently has been some confusion with the cookie list this year. Next fall, with the creation of our new web site, the list will be at your finger tips any time you like. If you were missed for cookies this year, sign ups will be in August at the picnic and continue each month until full.
- It's time to elect one board position. This is a member at large with a three-year commitment. Voting will be at the June picnic. If interested, let a board member know before the May meeting!

Kathy Bones, Secretary

The Siuslaw Chapter Extends a Warm Welcome To New Members:



R. 'Unique Marmalade'

Lisa Ackerman & Terry Beaver
Florence, OR
Bob & Cindy Blevins
Kennewick, WA
Gary & Lilo Henrikson
Florence, OR
Pat & Gary Mitchell
North Bend, OR
John & Renee Newport
Mapleton, OR
John & Jane Turner
Florence, OR
Betty Uchytill
Florence, OR