



Macrophyllum

December 2005

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

CHRISTMAS PARTY---SUNDAY -DECEMBER 11, 2005

Where: IOOF (Jesse T Jones Odd Fellows Park)- 04906 S. Jetty Road- Florence

When: Meet at Noon, Eat at 1PM

Bring your table service, covered dish and plant related gift.

Coffee and water will be furnished.

President's Report

December is my favorite winter month. We can expect some stormy weather, but between the storms we have nice periods of weather when we can continue to work with our plants. I'm still moving some of mine around. If they aren't doing well in their present location, I move them to a place where they might be happier. There are other reasons to enjoy December, and one of the biggest is our annual Christmas Party.

On Sunday, December 11th we will start gathering about noon at the Odd Fellows campground on South Jetty Road for our Christmas party. Those of us who arrive early will start arranging the room and the serving tables. Dinner will be at 1:00 pm. Bring a dish large enough to serve six or eight people or a smaller dish and a dessert, appetizer or salad, etc. Also bring your table service, and beverage of your choice, unless you want water or coffee to drink. The Chapter furnishes the coffee. Mother Nature supplies the water. Also bring an exchange gift from each of you- garden related and inexpensive. Our parties are a wonderful way to celebrate the holiday season.

Some ideas for inexpensive exchange gifts could include our new "Siuslaw Chapter Protected Area" signs, a gift certificate from one of our member Nurseries, a plant either grown by you or obtained from a member nursery, a garden book, a small garden tool, plant labels or a pretty plant container. For your regular Christmas shopping remember, in addition to the things already listed, Siuslaw Chapter sweatshirts, tee shirts, caps and jackets are always welcome gifts, as are rhododendron and azalea plants. A really nice gift that can be enjoyed all year long, would be a membership in our Chapter. Having friends and family members enjoying Chapter activities with you is really a gift to yourself, but you don't have to admit that.

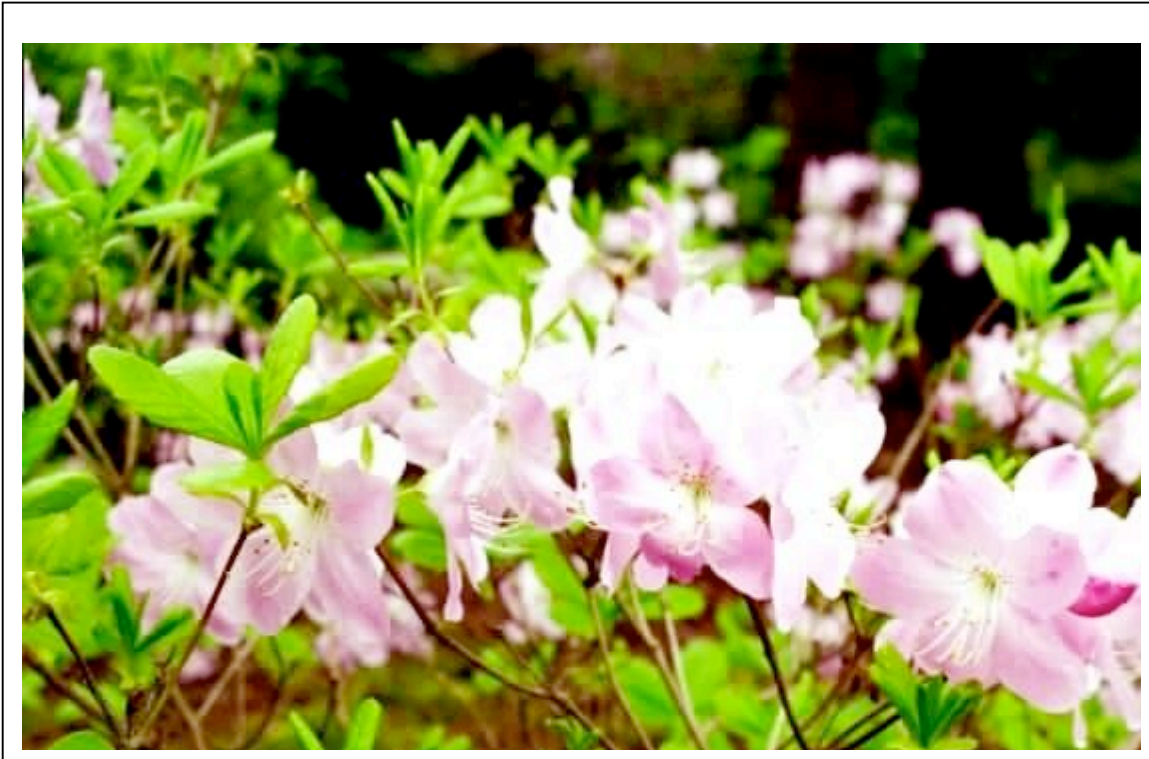
If we should get a cold spell this month, and it is possible, especially toward the end of the month, be prepared to protect those tender beauties you may have been collecting. Sometimes just covering them or building a temporary shelter for them will be enough to save them. Those really tender' plants (I have several) may have to be taken into a warm building or garage until the weather warms again. Cold snaps here along the Central Oregon Coast rarely last more than a week or so, but they have occurred in the past and we should be prepared for the possibility of a 'Siberian Express' choosing this winter to pay us a visit.

Your Board of Directors has such a full agenda that we have scheduled a meeting for December 6th. Of course, all members are welcome to attend our Board meetings. These meetings are work sessions but we usually manage to put some fun in them. As a matter of fact, just getting together with friends who share our interest in rhododendrons is fun. These Board meetings are usually held at Mike and Kathy Bones home beginning at 7:00 p.m.

See you at the Party!!

President- Everett Hall

Plant of the Month by Everett Hall



The Plant of the Month is *R. schlippenbachii*- the 'Royal' azalea. A Russian Naval officer found it growing along the seashore on the Korean peninsula. It is a native to Korea and the adjacent areas of Russia and Manchuria where it is a common shrub sometimes covering hillsides with lovely pink flowers in the spring of the year.

It was introduced into cultivation in 1893 but it wasn't until 1917 that plant explorer Ernest Wilson collected seed of it and sent them to both the United States and Britain, that the plant really became available to western gardens. In Korea this plant can become a small tree, growing from 3 to 16 feet tall. In cultivation it is more likely to become a bushy shrub 2 to 5 feet high.

The dark green leaves on this plant grow in whorls of five at the end of the small branches and turn red, yellow and orange before falling off in the autumn. Even though it loses its leaves in the winter, the plant structure remains attractive and interesting. Kathy Bones refers to plants that do this as 'looking like dead sticks'.

The trusses are composed of three to six pink to light rose, occasionally white, colored flowers that are slightly fragrant. The flowers are flat, about three inches wide and begin to open about the same time as the new foliage starts to appear. This plant is hard to grow from cuttings but now tissue culture plants from selected clones are becoming available. Here in our central coast area, this plant should be planted where it can be protected from the afternoon sun.

I do not know why this plant is referred to as the 'Royal' azalea but it is certainly a desirable azalea to include in your garden with beautiful pink flowers in the spring, pretty fall foliage and interesting 'dead sticks' in the winter, Kathy.

Secretary's Report

November 8, 2005
Board Meeting

Thanks to Marianne Horney and Cheryl Prchal, we have a wonderfully healthy credit with Timber Press. This is the company we get our books from and that are on sale at every meeting and show. If you have any suggestions on books you'd like to own, let Marianne know and if it's available through Timber Press, she can get it for you!

Remember if you are fortunate enough to visit the Species Foundation in Federal Way, Washington, you no longer need a ticket to get in. All you have to say is that you are a member of the Siuslaw Chapter ARS and you have free admission. Our Chapter is a member of the Foundation allowing any member of our Chapter access into the gardens.

The Board is working on a questionnaire for you as a member to fill out. It will ask questions about your interests and talents to help our Chapter be more efficient in our activities. Cheryl Prchal and Jeannie Shields are working on making it easy to read. We are shooting for January to have this questionnaire ready for your input.

Everett Hall is working on a glossary of rhody terms to help members more easily understand what is being discussed during a talk or class. Any suggestions on words you'd like to see added to the list, please see Everett.

The board heartily thanks Debbie Peterson for her work with the tours. She had some great trips and excited everyone that went on them. She is retiring for a couple of years and we need someone to carry on her work. She has lots of suggestions and has already invented the wheel for tours, so can pass on lots of information to the lucky person that takes this fun activity over.

Gallagher Park work parties are another fun activity that needs bodies. They have more fun out there than work and encourage everyone to come "play" with Ziggy Ziegelmaier and Gene Cockeram.

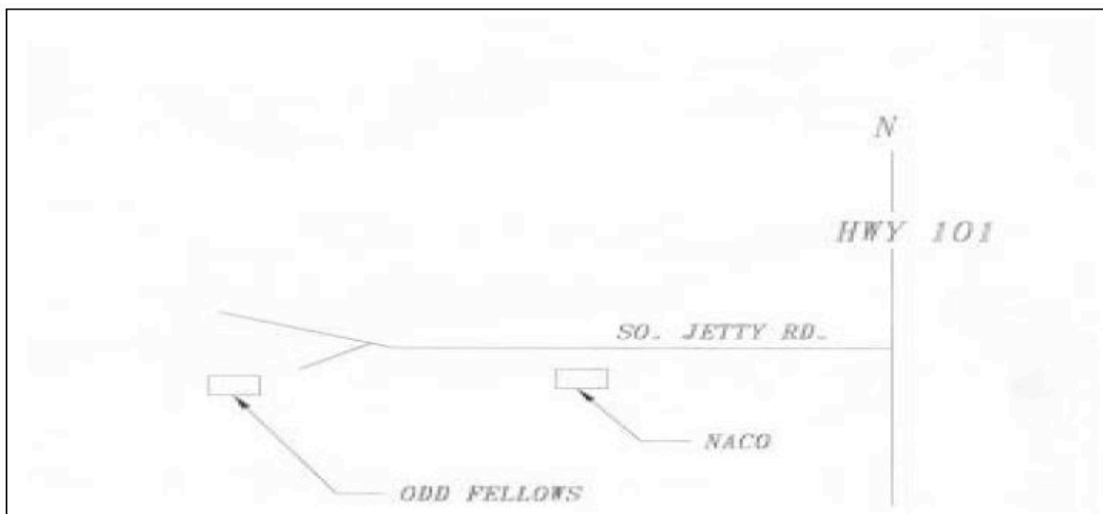
The Christmas Potluck will be December 11 at the Odd Fellows Campground. Kathy and Mike Bones have the sign-up sheet for the food, so if you haven't decided what to bring yet, call them, they have lots of ideas!

See you at the Christmas Party!!

Kathy Bones, Secretary



Map to Christmas Potluck – Odd Fellows Campground



Dear Dr. Rhody:

I live in Coquille, Oregon in Coos County. We know nothing about rhododendrons, but we bought a property with about 10 of them. One is more like a tree than a bush and we estimate it to be about 60-70 years old – as old as our house. I noticed that the tree seemed unhappy and dried out. The trunk was covered with whitish/green material. My husband called it “lichen” or mold. I am in the process of manually scraping this junk off the trunk. The tree already looks happier. Some of the other bushes also have this problem, but not to the same degree.

MY QUESTION: We do not use chemicals in our garden, but I would like to try putting watered down vinegar directly on the affected trunk areas to kill what’s left that I can’t scrape off (it almost looks like spores). Will this hurt the tree? I’m also going to give the plants some Miracle Grow fertilizer for a boost since they have been neglected for two years.

Thank you!
Jessica

Dear Jessica,

All the gardeners who live in western Oregon eventually have some plants with lichen growing on them. Typically it’s the older, weaker, and sometimes dying plants that are susceptible.

The lichen is growing on your plant so it is robbing your Rhododendron of some nutrients.

A local gardener – Gene Cockeram – has experimented with ways to remove the lichen. He uses 1 cup of ammonium sulfate (a fertilizer) in one gallon of water and sprays this on the lichen during the late fall or winter. This seems to kill the lichen and because there is no new growth on the plant, does not harm the Rhododendron. This is the only treatment I have found other than physically removing the lichen as you have done.

I would also like to suggest that you use a different fertilizer. We have found that a timed-release fertilizer like Cenco 20-12-8-8 is ideal for our conditions. I believe you can find it at the Grange Co-op in Coos Bay.

I would place the fertilizer around the drip line of the plant in late February for best results. Repeat the application about every 2 months. I personally don’t fertilize from mid November through January.

Good luck!
Dr. Rhody



Note from our Webmaster Paul Wilson:

We finally have a new URL address for our ARS Siuslaw Chapter web site. It is:

<http://www.siuslawars.org>

Our old URL address still works too.

<http://www.oregonfast.net/~siuslawars>

**HAPPY
HOLIDAYS**



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At the Holidays, we often think how fortunate we are and wish we could do something to help others.

By participating in our Siuslaw Rhododendron Chapter, you can help us get information about rhododendrons and azaleas out to the community.

We need some help filling some positions open in our Chapter. These are established, and the retiring person can help you get started. None of them are difficult to do, they just need your special touch and talents!

The openings are:

1. Back-up Photographer
2. Publicity Chair
3. Historian
4. Tour Coordinator

Get in touch with any officer or board member for information.

***Make this the year you get involved, it is so rewarding and these are such great people to be around!

Linda Lanning-Editor

Gallagher Park could use a few more hands on Thursdays after each meeting. Come out about 10am until noon. Gloves are a must for this. Come on out and see what we are doing to make a real show place of Florence! The park is at the corner of Spruce Street and Hwy 126.

Gene Cockeram -City of Florence Park & Recreation Committee

Board Meetings are the Tuesday before our Monthly meeting at the Bones' Residence at 7PM, any member is welcome to attend.

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.