



Macrophyllum

June 2006

Newsletter of the
Siuslaw Chapter
American Rhododendron Society
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UPCOMING Chapter Get -Together-----Sunday June 11, 2006 Social 1P.M., Eat at 2 P.M.

Where: Honeyman's Park- East of Hwy 101, South of Florence, Oregon

This Month-- Picnic and Election

Bring a covered dish and a plant for the "Plant Game"

Sweatshirts are 10% off at the picnic

PRESIDENT'S REPORT by Everett Hall

In accordance with our Chapter bylaws, our June meeting is when we hold our annual business meeting and we have elections for those Chapter officer and board positions whose terms have expired. (Vacant Board positions that occur before the end of elective term are filled by Board appointment).

By tradition we always have a potluck picnic at this meeting. Our picnic this year is on June 11th. Our meeting place is at Honeyman's Park on the East Side of Highway 101. We are also changing our meeting time this year in an attempt to get more members to attend. Last year we tried changing the picnics from Sunday to Saturday and that didn't seem to change anything. So now we are switching back to Sunday and we will start gathering at 1:00 P.M. and have our picnic at 2:00 P.M. Following this we will have our famous (or not so famous) plant game. Don't forget to bring a plant with you for each person who is going to participate in the game. It really is a lot of fun, and you might just go home with a real choice plant.

We still have several unfilled committee positions. We are in need of a new newsletter editor. As you may all know, Linda and Phil Lanning are leaving the Chapter and moving to Indiana. Linda has been a great newsletter editor and we are going to miss them both. We also need someone to begin training to take over as Show Chair in 2008. Jim Smith has agreed to remain in that position until then and he will train his replacement.

If you are having problems with your rhododendrons and want to have experienced growers identify possible causes and treatment, please bring specimens to our Chapter meetings or Gallagher's work sessions. House calls can be requested and we will try to have an experienced grower come to your home. We've never tried this before, so please be patient with us as we try it out to see if it will fly or not.

The Gallagher's Park Development Committee has prepared a draft plan identifying items in the Park that need to be done as soon as possible. The first of these items is the removal of some trees and the lower limbs on several other trees so we can get better light and air circulation in the park. This plan will be put into a proposal that we will take to the Garden Club for their review, input and support. Then it will have several more hoops to jump through before it can become reality. But we have taken the first step. This will be an ambitious project, but it should be fun to do.

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT - Continued

As I step down from being the Chapter President, I want to thank all of the members of the Board of Directors for their hard work this past two years. Some of their accomplishments are: Development and adoption of a Chapter Mission Statement; compiling all of the Chapter policies and attaching them to the bylaws; developing Chapter Job Guidelines; Identifying Chapter Committee Purposes and Responsibilities; approving a Chapter web-site; approving and developing a Chapter Foliage Display; finding a new newsletter editor (now they get to do this again), making available to Chapter members our Chapter Jackets, Caps and yard signs and now, the first steps in what we anticipate will be the development of Gallagher's Park into a Rhododendron garden of which we can all be proud!

I also want to thank all of you for your support and involvement in Chapter activities including our Rhododendron 101 and 202 presentations, our auctions and our shows. We can be especially proud that, under Jim Smith's direction, we were able put on the largest rhododendron show in the history of the Chapter. You are a wonderful group of people and it's been a privilege to serve as your President.

Everett Hall

Dr. Rhody,

1. Does foliage feeding benefit Rhodies- should I be using Miracle-Gro?

2. Why do some Azaleas have 10 Stamens?

--Wondering

Dear Wondering,

1: It is my opinion, and I have no scientific studies to back it up, that feeding large Rhododendrons with any liquid fertilizer is not as good as using a good timed release granular fertilizer. A fertilizer that has the micronutrients Rhododendrons use and some quick release nitrogen as well as slower release nitrogen seems to be ideal.

Many of the people who complain about the appearance and bloom production of their plants say they are using liquid fertilizer. When they change to a granular they seem to be more satisfied.

I personally have found in raising small seedlings it is quite easy to overuse and to burn your plants with a liquid fertilizer.

2: I have never seen an Azalea with 10 stamens. The general rule of thumb is one stamen for each flower petal on an Azalea and 2 stamens for each petal on a Rhododendron. Of course, some flowers have no stamens at all, and others have odd numbers, but generally you can determine if your plant is an Azalea or a Rhododendron by counting stamens.

Dr. Rhody

Secretary's Report Kathy Bones

Thank you to Sandi Huffman for stepping in at the last minute to be the acting Board Secretary for the last board meeting due to the absence of the Bones. Mike had a bit of a health scare that turned out to be just orneriness and I'm thankful that's all it was!

It was decided that if you're going on a tour organized by Tony Rebello, let him know ahead of time that you plan to attend. This helps in making arrangements for restaurants and any special happenings. Make suggestions to Tony or any board member about any gardens you may like to tour. You might know of some interesting ones no one else knows about!

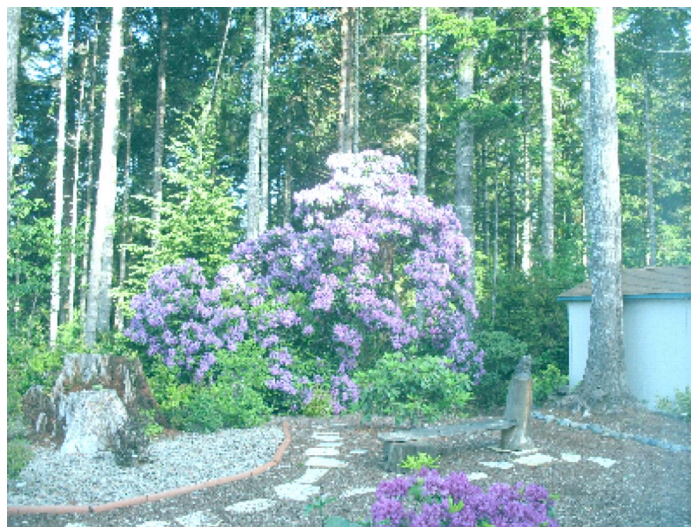
We're still looking for that special someone to be the Newsletter Editor and a show Chair Trainee. If you know of that shy person out there wanting to do the job but needs to be asked, let a board member know and we'll do the rest.

Some really exciting news is that we will be having activities all summer long this year! Of course the picnic in June is coming up but in July there will be two opportunities to get involved. On July 18th, from 6:30 to 9:00 PM at the Presbyterian Church, we will be having a "trough making" program. This will be the instructions on "how" to do it and on July 25th at 4:00 PM at Roadside Rhododendron Nursery in Mapleton, (Jim and Sylvia Smith's), we'll be actually building some! There will be a potluck dinner following the fun! By the way, a trough is a container for flowers made in any shape you choose.

Do you have an odd-looking leaf or flower? Do you have a question you can't send Dr. Rhody? Bring your odd-looking plant, leaf, flower, or question to a meeting and ask one of our resident "experts". They have answers for everything!!! If they don't, they know where to look!

Starting in November, watch for articles about Rhodies in the Siuslaw News.

Again, thank you to Sandi!!



Fastuosum Flore Pleno (Fat Flora)

This 40+ year-old Rhody is two plants happily growing out of an old stump. It is 15-20 feet tall, and even wider.

This beauty was discovered when the Lannings developed their backyard a few years ago.

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We had another great **Garden Tour** on May 24th. It proved to be our largest tour with 19 people participating! We started at Don and Jeannie Shield's home. Don and Jeannie gave us a tour of their gardens – Pond Garden, Upper Garden, Lower Garden, Peninsula Garden, and the Triangle Garden with over 250 Rhodies. More than half of their Rhodies were still in bloom.

Our next stop was DeVern and Joyce Pinnock's garden. Their garden showed us mature Rhododendrons, many 40 years or older. We finished our tour with lunch at Driftwood Shores.

Watch the **Website** for information on the next garden tour.
The Rebello's

Now's your chance to get a real deal on Chapter sweatshirts!! At the June 11th picnic only, we will be offering a 10% discount on all sweatshirts, saving you at least \$2.00 each. See Sandi Hennig or Cheryl Prchal

New Members:

Michael and Wilma-Jean Gottschalk
Craig and Barbara Roberts
Charles and Stephanie McKenzie
Ron and Joyce Goetze

WELCOME TO OUR CLUB!!

Gallagher Park could use a few more hands on Thursdays after each meeting. Come out about 10 AM until noon. Bring some gloves. Come out and see what we are doing to make a real show place of Florence! The park is at the corner of Spruce and Hwy 126.
Gene Cockeram-City of Florence Park & Recreation Committee

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.