



# Macrophyllum

March 2005

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

**Web Site:** <http://www.oregonfast.net/~siuslawars/>

## Presidents Report

Our next pre-meeting dinner will be at the Bridgewater restaurant on Bay Street. If you plan to join the group, please call Eileen Mickey - 997 2222- no later than Friday, March 18<sup>th</sup> so she can make our group reservations. The restaurants really appreciate an accurate count so they can be prepared for us.

If you have not visited Gallagher Park recently why don't you drop by for a few minutes? There are several plants blooming now including a hardy vireya with little bright red bell shaped flowers. This is one of Jim Gerdermann's hybrids and it has been in bloom constantly since before Christmas. The first of the selected forms of *R. macrophyllum* that the committee has been propagating has been planted in the park. It is a grafted plant we have named 'Siuslaw Beauty'. It was found growing close to the shoreline of Mercer Lake.

The work parties at the park could use some more helping hands. There is plenty of work to be shared: weeding; brush removal and general clean up. It is fun to work together to maintain the park and is looking better all the time.

Those of you who order seed from the ARS seed exchange should try to get your orders in soon. I like to plant my seed in the spring. That's Mother Nature's favorite time for seeds to germinate and you shouldn't try to fool Mother.

If you didn't get your plants fertilized last month then give them some plant food now. We ran out of fertilizer last month and our supplier was unable to fill our order for a few days while they ordered more from the manufacturer, but we now have a nice supply on hand at our storage facility-Mike and Kathy Bones garage. Please call them before going out to get it to be certain they are home. 997-3082.

Debbie Petersen is busy getting some more great garden tours arranged for us. The next one, Tuesday, March 22 will be in the Eugene area visiting two rhododendron nurseries. One of these nurseries also has a magnolia nursery in conjunction with it - Heather Oak. While you are there spend a few minutes to look at the 'Nearing' frames they use for rooting rhododendron cuttings.

If you want one of the new Chapter jackets, bring your checkbook to the meeting. Orders must be pre paid as our limited budget will not handle the expense of orders. These are really attractive jackets and have our chapter name on them

Our program for our next meeting will be 'Rhododendron 202' and will be presented by your three dynamic trio, Jim Smith [Dr. Rhody], Mike Bones [District Director], and your fearless President. This program is a follow-up to Rhododendron 101 that originated here in our chapter. Rhododendron 101 covered the basics of growing rhododendrons and we have had multiple requests to take the program on to the next level.

(continued next page)

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## CALENDAR

### MARCH

#### Chapter Meeting

*When:* Tues., March 15, 7PM.

*What:* Rhodies 202

*Where:* Presbyterian Church,  
3996 Hwy 101, Florence, OR

*Pre-meeting Dinner:*

5 p.m. at Bridgewater  
Restaurant.

Call Eileen McKenney at  
(541) 997-2222, or

<mailto:egmc@charter.net>

**Reservations are needed**

*Cookie bakers:*

1. Linda Lanning
2. Wendy Grant
3. Jan Shepherd

### APRIL

*When:* Tues, April 19, 7PM.

*What:* Dick "Red" Cavendar

The program will cover topics such as; pruning, pinching, foliage problems, insects and diseases, how to prepare a show truss so you can go home with a trophy, and more. We will have handouts listing the topics we hope to cover with spaces for your notes. This is the first time we have made this presentation and we know from our experience with Rhododendron 101 it will take us time to get it into the format that gives you the information you want and need. We are not afraid of constructive criticism.

**Everett Hall, President**

**Dear Dr. Rhody,**

What is the lowest growing Rhododendron that does well in the Florence area???

Dear ???

Your question is quite open-ended. I will have to make some assumptions regarding the term low growing. In order to begin a meaningful discussion I will assume you mean a Rhododendron that will not be larger than two feet in ten years. I will also assume you want a plant that will do well in any location - sun, shade or anything in between, in the Florence area.

It is fortunate there are really many varieties that meet your criteria.

I will list my favorites including color and size of each.

YELLOW:	Patty Bee	18" a very special plant!
	Wren	12"
LIGHT PINK:	Ginny Gee	24" covers itself in flowers
DARK PINK:	Wee Bee	12" nice fall foliage
WHITE:	Egret	24" somewhat hard to find
RED:	Scarlet Wonder	24"
PURPLE:	fastigiatum	18" a wonderful species
	Ramapo	24" dusty blue new leaves

The above list is composed of plants that I like. They all have done very well for me. Other people will likely have other choices. Any of these plants will also do well in a "container" garden. If you are renting, and want to grow Rhododendrons you can take with you whenever you move, these selections should work very well. Remember in a container, as in the soil, drainage is the most important factor. You must have excellent drainage!!!

**Dr. Rhody**

### **Rhododendron Events**

**April 27-May 1, 2005:** ARS National Convention, Victoria, BC

Hosted in Victoria, BC, by the Victoria Rhododendron Society. It's a great way to celebrate spring - floods of rhododendrons and spring flowers all over town, visits to public and private gardens, interesting lectures by speakers from Australia, New Zealand, Sikkim, Scotland, the U.S. and Canada, reception in the Royal B.C. Museum, sea-side walks, accessibility to all of beautiful Vancouver Island, on and on.

**Sept 9-12, 2005:** 25<sup>th</sup> Western Regional, Newport, OR

**Nov 4-6, 2005:** NE Regional, East Windsor, NJ

**May 12-15, 2006:** ARS National Convention, Washington, DC

### **Treasurers Report**

I still have passes available for the Species Foundation Garden in Federal Way. Those of you who are going to the Victoria convention may like to make a stop as you travel.

Our first order of chapter jackets and hats has been placed and should be here in time for the March meeting. Come see what all the excitement is about. Please bring your order forms given out at the February meeting and get yours ordered too.

**Cheryl Prchal, Treasurer**

## Secretary's Report

Your board met and ate cookies while they conducted the business. We got a sneak preview of the March Rhodys 202 outline. It looks like an informative and interesting class and will answer many of your questions. Be sure to attend and bring your own questions.

Jim Smith submitted the changes he has suggested for the bylaws. Be sure you receive a copy so you can be informed before the voting at the March meeting. The change is located in Article VII, Elections.

The first macrophyllum plant has been planted in Gallagher Park. A visit to see it is a must. The park is starting to get ready for spring and is well worth the time to spend enjoying it.

Chapter jackets are now available for ordering. They are hunter green with a dark navy lining. A matching cap may be ordered, too. See Cheryl Prchal for an order form.

A pre-flower show meeting was held on February 28 at 6:00 PM at the Bones'.

A Development Fund form is now found attached to the monthly newsletter. If you want to donate to the fund, all needed information will be found on this form.

The Rhododendron Parade theme has been changed to "A Bridge to Your Dreams". Any ideas for Phil Lanning and the float, let him know!

Happy Spring,

**Kathy Bones, Secretary**

## Notes

Flower show set up Mar 31, 4pm, FEC. Contact Jim Smith

Gallagher Park work party is scheduled for March 17, 9:30am. Contact Gene Cockeram

Development Fund donations, see attached form or contact Jeannie Shields

## Plant of the Month

This month's featured rhododendron is a seldom grown species – *R.anwhiense*. This species was first collected in 1923 in the Chinese province of Anwei where it was found growing in thickets on rocky soil and on the sides of cliffs.

The plant is compact and rounded growing from six to twelve feet tall in its native habitat but usually four to five feet tall in cultivation.

The oblong-oval shaped foliage is medium sized with re-curved margins. The foliage can be shiny green but is frequently a pale green on the upper side. It is paler on the under surface of the leaf.

The flower buds are round opening to a truss of six to ten bell shaped flowers that are usually white to blush pink with purple-red to crimson spots.

This plant is not a prima donna. It's tough, growing in rather harsh environment, and although it is very attractive when in flower for some reason it has never been a popular species in collectors gardens.

I took the photographs of this species while on a garden tour during the Olympia ARS convention.

**Everett Hall**

As you may have noticed the picture on the left shows an unusual species. For those of you not familiar with, *R. bones*, it grows wild in the Florence area. Locals have found it popping up all over town, sometimes in places where one would not expect it to flourish. It blooms a deep crimson red, just one day a year - Valentines Day. It is easily crossed with other species, but tends to dominate.

**Anonymous**



## DEVELOPMENT FUND

The Siuslaw Chapter created the Development Fund to allow members, family and friends to contribute gifts to the Chapter in honor of, or in memory of, a Chapter member. To date the fund has received contributions in memory of members and family members and to honor birthdays, weddings and anniversaries. All donations will be used to further the genus rhododendron with special Chapter activities. The Fund has been slowly growing. Letters will be sent, when appropriate, to the family that is being honored. Tax deductible receipts will be issued upon the receipt of a donation. The Chapter would like to thank you for your generosity.

### DONATION FORM

Memorial

Honoraria

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_

**Gift is from:** (You will receive a tax deductible receipt from the Chapter)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone number: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

**Please send an acknowledgement to:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone number: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this form, along with your check, to any Siuslaw Board Member or mail to:  
Siuslaw Chapter, ARA, PO Box 1701, Florence, OR 97439