



# Macrophyllum

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

## Secretary's Report

Your board has been busy planning fun activities besides doing the every day business of our chapter. Read your newsletter every month so you won't miss any opportunity!

An awards committee, including Jeannie Shields, Jim Smith and Eileen McKenney, has been formed to prepare for our Christmas potluck in December. They will handle the Bronze Medal Award and Certificates of Appreciation.

A study group is being formed and will meet for the first time on November 11, at 7:00 to no later than 9:00 PM at the Bones'. They will decide then what topic they want to study. Anything is possible!

There seems to be some confusion on the official meeting time for our chapter regular meetings. 7:00 PM is the correct starting time with a social time prior to that.

Dave Shepherd is checking into the possibility of getting a chapter jacket. If this works, we will have the opportunity to buy a nice jacket with our chapter name on it.

Debbie Peterson excited the board with her ideas and plans for chapter trips. Plans for a bus to Victoria, B.C. next spring for the convention is well on its way. Be thinking about if you can take advantage of this trip. There are only 47 seats available and will be a first come first serve opportunity. She is also working on a trip to see the Christmas lights at Shore Acres State Park. That's coming up all too fast!!

Another opportunity to help is on the Telephone Committee. Jeannie Shields is working on a way to get the word out to all - quicker, easier and more efficiently. If you like to talk on the phone, let Jeannie know!

Kathy Bones, Secretary

## Gallagher Park

The Gallagher park work signup has worked wonders so far, as we have had two of the best work sessions in the park in a long time. A few more like these and the park will really be looking good. I just hope that we can continue with this accomplishment, let's keep up the good work.

Thanks to all of you who helped.

Remember, we meet the Thursday after the monthly Rhodie meeting.

Gene

**President:** Everett Hall  
(541) 997-3605

<mailto:evhall@msn.com>

**Vice President:** Jeannie Shields  
(541) 902-8358

**Secretary:** Kathy Bones  
(541) 997-3082

<mailto:rhodies@harborside.com>

**Treasurer:** Cheryl Prchal  
(541) 902-7637

<mailto:prchals@oregonfast.net>

### Board Members:

Mike Bones, Past President, New Members

(541) 997-3082

<mailto:rhodies@harborside.com>

Dave Shepherd (05), Chapter Shirts  
(541) 997-2283

<mailto:drshepherd@oregonfast.net>

Paul Ziegelmaier (06)

(541) 902-0584

<mailto:semperfi@presys.com>

Phil Lanning

(541) 997-9954

<mailto:lanning@oregonfcu.com>

### Book Chairperson:

Marianne Horney

(541) 997-6626

<mailto:maribob@oregonfast.net>

### Hospitality:

Paul & Freda Ziegelmaier

(541) 902-0584

<mailto:semperfi@presys.com>

### Garden Tours:

Debbie Peterson

(541) 997-1212

<mailto:peterston1212@msn.com>

### Newsletter:

Ellen & Chris Atkin

(541) 997-3247

<mailto:atkin@oregonfast.net>

## CALENDAR

### NOVEMBER

#### Chapter Meeting

*When:* Tuesday, November 16, 7PM.

*What:* Hawaii conference highlights and pictures.

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

#### *Pre-meeting Dinner:*

5 p.m. at ICM, Bay Street.

Call Eileen McKenney at

(541) 997-2222, or

<mailto:egmc@charter.net>

**Reservations are needed**

#### *Cookie bakers:*

Judy Johnson

Jenny Velinty

Annette Bignami

### DECEMBER

Sunday, December 12 –

Christmas Pot Luck. More info to come.

## President's Report

We had a full house in attendance at our last meeting. Knowing the basics to growing rhododendrons is critical to successfully raising these wonderful plants and providing that information to our members is one of our primary reasons for having a chapter. I hope everyone enjoyed the presentation as much as Mike and I did in bringing it to you and if there is something else you want us to include next time we present it please let us know.

If you have some plants that need to be moved to a different location [we talked about that at the meeting] now is still the perfect time to do it. The fall rains have started and plants moved now will be well settled in to their new location by spring. This is also the time to clean up the garden. Rake up fallen leaves and debris around the plants. Nasty little chewing critters love to hide in that litter and they can do a lot of damage to your beloved plants if you give them a happy home next to what they want as their food supply.

The way some of our plants are blooming this fall would almost lead some people to believe spring is just around the corner. I wish this were true, but we still have some winter months to put up with. Some fall bloom is normal and certain plants such as 'Taku' and 'Elizabeth' always 'throw' a few flowers for us to enjoy in the fall but this year we seem to have more than usual. Our plant of 'Sunspray' is showing color all over it. I suspect our long hot summer followed by the cool, wet weather we've had this fall is responsible for causing this to happen. Enjoy it while you can- it's really a promise of what we will see when spring really does arrive.

Our before meeting dinner this month will be at the ICM. Call Eileen McKenney and let her know if you are planning to be there so she can make our group reservations for us. Our chapter program will be two-part. First the members who went to the Hilo conference will share some of the highlights and pictures that were taken there [I warned you!] This will be followed by a small plant auction. This is not our regular chapter fund raising auction- that is held at our May meeting. This is just supposed to be a little fun auction. Bring a plant or two if you have some extras and be prepared to join our great group of people for an enjoyable evening,

Everett Hall, President

## 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. For more details visit the [ARS 2005 Conference Homepage](http://victoria.tc.ca/Recreation/Ars2005/) <<http://victoria.tc.ca/Recreation/Ars2005/>>.

**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

## Chapter Dues

### FINAL REMINDER

Renewal memberships are due on December 1st to ensure an uninterrupted subscription to the ARS Journal and the continued benefits of our Siuslaw Chapter. Family memberships are \$40 and Individual memberships are \$35. This is also a good time to purchase an Associate membership in other chapters for just \$8. If you have any questions, please call Cheryl Prchal (541) 902-7637. Renewal by the next chapter meeting (November 16th) will save us many phone calls.

### NAME TAGS

If you are interested in purchasing the hard plastic Oregon shaped Siuslaw Chapter ARS name badges for \$5.50, please call Cheryl Prchal at (541) 902-7637 or order them at the November meeting.

Cheryl Prchal, Treasurer

## Dr. Rhody,

Last year our chapter had a meeting where we learned how to propagate Rhododendrons and Azaleas from cuttings. We were given an opportunity to make our own. I was very interested and did several varieties.

I set my cuttings in a warm location and made sure they were always moist. You can't believe how thrilled I was when many of the cuttings developed roots and began to actually produce new growth. I purchased some bark mix, the type suggested by the experts, and planted my cuttings in one-gallon containers. The plants were set outside and watered regularly. I anxiously watched their progress. After a while it became clear that something was wrong. Many of the rooted cuttings started looking very sick. At the present time I have lost about 30% of the plants I put in the gallon containers. HELP!! What did I do wrong? Why are my plants dying?

Panicked!

Dear Panicked,

This is a tough question to answer. To give you the best opinion I really need to examine your plants. However, I can offer some possible explanations.

Make sure the roots are well developed before transplanting. A well-formed root ball, about the size of a golf ball, is important for plant survival.

When you transplant it is important to handle rooted cuttings very carefully. I would suggest you don't touch the roots at all, they are very fragile. When you plant the cuttings in your containers, be very careful not to press the mix around the roots they break off the stem easily.

Don't plant the cuttings deep in the mix. Rhododendrons like to be high. I preach to people to make sure they don't put mature plants too deeply in the ground and sometimes I forget and put cuttings too deep in the mix and they don't survive.

If the new growth of your cuttings appears diseased, limp or gray, you may have a fungus that can be sprayed. Hopefully I have helped answer your questions. Don't give up. There is something very rewarding about producing new plants. I still remember the satisfaction and pleasure I felt the first time I was able to give a friend a one-gallon plant grown from a cutting.

Keep trying,

Dr. Rhody



Hawaii Conference Attendees

**The Plant of the Month** is *R. hemsleyanum* (Shown Below)

*R. hemsleyanum* was discovered in 1904 by Ernest [Chinese] Wilson when he was plant hunting on Mt. Omei in western Sichuan China. Mt. Omei has been renamed Emei Sham. It is one of the four most sacred mountains of Chinese Buddhism and now is visited by thousands of people every year. But that wasn't happening one hundred years ago when Wilson was plant hunting in that area. *R. hemsleyanum* was afterwards found by other plant collectors but always in the Emei Sham area. It has not been found growing naturally anywhere else, although a related plant has been found elsewhere in China.

*R. hemsleyanum* grows to be a small tree to twenty feet or so in height, it is a very distinctive plant and can be readily identified by its oblong-oval foliage, quite unlike any other rhododendron of which I am familiar. These thick leaves are six to nine inches long and two about three to four inches wide, They are an oblong shape with the corners rounded, dark green on the top side of the leaf and a paler green on the underside. The leaves are frequently wavy on the margins.

One of the nice features of *R. hemsleyanum* is the late blooming season. It flowers in our garden the last part of June into the first part of July extending the blooming season. The trusses are large being composed of ten to twelve fragrant white flowers, each of which is about four inches wide. The flowers, at least on our plant, have a yellow-green throat that further adds to its beauty.

On the downside, the pedicel, or flower stalk, is very sticky making it necessary to wear disposable gloves when you deadhead it.

This rhododendron grows naturally on a mountain, so it should be provided with good drainage when you plant it. It should also be protected from the afternoon sunshine because of its late blooming time and protection from strong wind because of its large foliage.

If you have room in your garden for a late blooming fragrant small tree rhododendron, this could be a good choice. It grows well here in the Central Oregon Coast region. It can be under-planted with lower growing plants creating a lovely spot in your garden. But watch out for those pedicels.

Everett Hall

