



# **Macrophyllum**

**November 2005**

Newsletter of the  
**Siuslaw Chapter**  
**American Rhododendron Society**  
**P. O. Box 1701**  
**Florence, OR 97439-0111**

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

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**NEXT MEETING**---Tuesday-*November 15, 2005 Social Time 6:30 PM, Starts at 7 PM*

*Where*---*Presbyterian Church 3996 Hwy 101 Florence, Oregon 97439*

**This Month's Program**—*Speaker-Larry Landauer*

**\*\*Pre-meeting dinner 5 PM at the Atzlan Mexican Restaurant 1015 Hwy 101, Florence**

**Call Eileen McKenney 541-997-2222 or <mailto:egmc@charter.net> for reservations.**

## ***Presidents Report***

It would appear, based on feedback from the people who attended our last meeting where we presented Rhododendron 101, that you enjoyed the presentation. We want to thank everyone for their attention and participation. Although this program is directed primarily to the novice rhododendron grower, one of our members told us she has attended three presentations of it and still enjoys it.

In February we will be bringing you Rhododendron 202 where we will delve deeper into the care and culture of rhododendrons and azaleas. Mike Bones, Jim Smith and I will be refining this program prior to bringing it to you. We will do our best to make it informative and fun, so be sure to mark it on your 2006 calendars.

November is a great month to work in our gardens here in the Central Oregon Coast area. There is so much to be done! Garden clean-up and getting ready for winter has a high priority. But so does the setting out of new plants and the transplanting of some of the existing plants that may be crowded, growing too large or just are not doing well in their current location. Remember, when you transplant, set the plant a little bit higher than it was in its last location. I say "last" because some of my plants have been moved several times. Rhododendrons require good drainage and may settle a bit after being transplanted, so consider that when you move them.

There is still plenty of time to take your cuttings. I take cuttings clear through January as some varieties seem to root better from winter cuttings. Of course, it's already too late to take cuttings of certain varieties as the wood is already hardened. You can easily tell, if the cutting still has green wood (not brown) there is a good chance it will root.

If you have sandy soil or if you have plants that are in need of fertilizing, now is a good time to give them a light feeding. The Chapter has just purchased a ton of fertilizer for you. We were able to get it with only a slight increase from last year's cost. It is stored in Mike and Kathy Bones garage, so be sure to call before you go to get some, to be sure they will be home and the garage will be open.

We need help and participation in Chapter activities, including maintenance and refurbishing Gallagher Park. In our Chapter we have the capability of making that park one of the show places of the Central Oregon Coast. But we need your help to do it.

At this month's meeting we will be having a mini-auction, so bring whatever plants you want to donate for this event. Of course, our big fund raising auction will be held at our May meeting but this smaller one is also fun and an opportunity to obtain some new and exciting plants

Don't forget to call Eileen McKenny for your pre-chapter dinner reservations. 997-2222. If you find that you can't keep your reservation, please let her know so she can inform the restaurant of the change in attendance. See you there

Everett Hall-President

**Secretary's Report**

The business of our Chapter was carried out on October 11 at a meeting of your board. We have paid our Species Foundation renewal membership. If you're up that way, feel free to visit the garden. A special pass is no longer necessary. check in at the front desk and identify what chapter your from. Our treasurer, Cheryl Prchal, invites anyone wanting to look treasurer's report to see her and she will be glad to let you see one.

We find with the healthy membership count that we need an additional cookie contributor per month. Jenny Velinty will be contacting you to ask what month you can bring cookies. Thanks, Jenny!

Last month I told you about the nurseries that will honor your membership to the Siuslaw Chapter with a 10% discount on plants. I left off Greer Gardens in Eugene, so add them to your list.

Membership cards are still being worked on and will HOPEFULLY be ready by the December Christmas party. Get your dues paid before December 1 to receive your winter Journal and get your membership card.

We are pleased and proud to present Ziggy Ziegelmaier as our new chapter photographer. He needs an official backup. If you can do that, let Ziggy or Everett know.

We still need volunteers for the posts of Historian and Publicity Chairman. Both are easy jobs and your board needs to have help spreading out the load.

More workers are needed at the Gallagher Park work party held every month. It's a good opportunity to learn about the care of rhodies!

It's not too early to think about Christmas and the presents you get to give. Some good suggestions are a membership to the chapter, t-shirts, caps, jackets, books, yard sign or a contribution to the Development Fund.

If you missed Jeannie Shields letter to the editor about planting rhodies along Hwy 101, ask her about it! It was well worth the reading!

There will be a mini auction at our next meeting, November 15, so be ready! See you there.

Kathy Bones, Secretary

Dr. Rhody,

What do I do about stem die back? Can I save my plant? Will it spread?

-----Dying to Know

Dear Dying,

It is very likely you can save your plant. You haven't described what is actually happening so I will cover the most likely possibilities.

The ends of branches die when Rhododendron or Azalea borer larvae tunnel into a stem. The parts of the plant above the larvae wilt and die. The damage is already done if you see wilting and dieback. The best remedy is to cut off the affected region. Make sure you destroy the section you remove so that the larvae don't mature and become adults.

You can prevent borers by using a spray called Lindale. I have seen no borers in my area so check carefully to determine if your problem is borers or a fungus dieback.

There are two types of dieback caused by fungi. The first is caused by Phytophthora Cactorum. This disease affects the new leaves on the current year's growth. The leaves wilt and eventually fall off. Make sure you remove the infected stems to prevent spreading to other parts of your plant.

The other major type of stem dieback is caused by a fungus called Botryosphaeria. This fungus usually attacks large mature stems. The entire section wilts but the rest of the plant looks healthy. This fungus usually occurs after the plant has experienced heat and drought stress. Late summer or early fall is the time this fungus is most active.

This die back is fast acting. The wilting occurs quite rapidly.

As usual, remove infected areas and destroy.

Spraying with a systemic fungicide can help prevent these infections. Remember, excellent drainage may help prevent many fungal diseases.

Dr. Rhody

## PLANT OF THE MONTH BY Everett Hall



I have written about *R. irroratum* before, but it is such a great Species Rhododendron, I want to tell you about it again. I encourage those of you looking for a beautiful, easy to grow species to consider acquiring one of these plants for your fall planting.

This Species was first reported by Abbe Delavey in 1886 when he was in the Yunnan Province of China, presumably attempting to save souls. But while he was attempting to convert the heathens, he became enchanted with the strange and beautiful plants he found growing along the way. He started reporting what he saw and sending seeds back to his homeland of France. This species was later found in the same general area and collected several times by other plant hunters.

Like many other species, *R. irroratum* it varies in height, growth habit and color of flowers. The plants I am familiar with grow to be quite tall – up to twenty feet in height, and have lance shaped dark green leaves up to about seven inches long.

The trusses are composed of up to fifteen or sixteen funnel shaped flowers at least two inches long, which have a very small calyx. These flowers can vary in color from white through cream, yellow, and pink to deep rose, which cover the plant with a profusion of color when it is flowering. The flowers on many of the plants may have darker colored spots adding to this riot of color. *R. irroratum* blooms fairly early in the season-late March and into April. My plants are usually in bloom for our early show. I have just received a new yellow flowering variety from the Rhododendron Species Foundation and I am looking forward to when it will start blooming, and fortunately *R. irroratum* plants start blooming at an early age.

One of my favorite *R. irroratum* clones is named 'Polka Dot'. It has white flowers blushed with pink and is exuberantly spotted with dark purple spots. Another beautiful easily obtained clone is named 'Spatter Paint.'

Here in the Central Oregon Coast region *R. irroratum* can be grown in full sun, but seems to prefer light afternoon shade. Like most species, it should be planted where it will have good drainage, summertime water, and room to grow.

You can't go wrong selecting one of these plants if you have room for a large plant. The plants I have mentioned are available from some of our member nurseries where you can receive your membership discount. Tell them I sent you. You won't get a larger discount, but they will know whom to blame!

### HAVE YOU RENEWED YOUR MEMBERSHIP?

Time is running out to renew your membership for 2006 without missing any ARS benefits. Please bring your renewal to the November meeting or mail to the chapter at P O Box 1701, Florence OR 97439 as soon as possible. Family memberships are \$40 and individual memberships are \$35.

Cheryl Prchal, Treasurer

### **Editor's Note;**

The 2006 Rhododendron Convention will be starting October 20, 2006 in Burnie, Tasmania, Australia.. Information is available at <http://www.jobfuturestat.com/rhodoconf2006>. Check it out and make your plans early to attend, for the best reservations and pricing.

### **Cookie Bakers:**

**\*\* Nan Osbon, Linda Lanning, Judy Johnson, and Joy Burkey**

**Note: If you are unable to bring cookies, please contact Jenny Velinty at (541) 997-7573 <mailto:jenvel@harborside.com>**

**Gallagher Park** could use a few more hands on Thursdays after the 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

New Members!!

Marliyn Linde-Cheshire,OR.; Michele Morse-Albany, OR.; and Pat Miller-Florence, OR. Welcome!!

**President:** Everett Hall  
(541) 997-3605  
<mailto:evhall@msn.com>

**Vice President:** Jeannie Shields  
(541) 902-8358  
<mailto:djshields@myway.com>

**Secretary:** Kathy Bones  
(541) 997-3082  
<mailto:kathybones@charter.net>

**Treasurer:** Cheryl Prchal  
(541) 902-7637  
<mailto:rhodyholics@yahoo.com>

**Board Members:**  
Mike Bones, Past President,  
New Members (541) 997-3082  
<mailto:rhodies@charter.net>  
Paul Ziegelmaier (06)  
(541) 902-0584  
<mailto:semperfi@presys.com>  
Phil Lanning (07)  
(541) 997-9954  
<mailto:lanningpl@msn.com>  
Pete Peterson (08)  
(541) 997-1212  
<mailto:peterston1212@msn.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:** Linda Lanning  
(541) 997-9954  
<mailto:lanningpl@msn.com>  
Distribution: Merilee Mulvey  
(541) 997-8045  
<mailto:qmmulvey@oregonfast.net>

**Show Chairman:** Jim Smith  
(541) 268-6821  
<mailto:roadside6@msn.com>

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.