



Macrophyllum

October 2005

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

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

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NEXT MEETING---Tuesday-October 18, 2005 *Social Time 6:30 PM, Starts at 7 PM*

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

This Month's Program—*Rhodies 101*

*******Rhododendron Door Prizes*******

****Pre-meeting dinner 5 PM at the ICM on Bay Street, Florence, Call Eileen McKenney**

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

Presidents Report

October is a lovely month here in the Central Oregon Coast area. The deciduous trees are in their autumnal colors, the weather has cooled and it's time to start planting and transplanting our favorite plants. The earlier in the season you do this, the better the plants will be adapted to their new location when spring arrives.

Several years ago our Chapter started the "October is plant a Rhododendron month" tradition. Anyone who reads about this event in the newspaper can get a 10% discount from our Chapter member nurseries by mentioning it to the nursery salesperson at the time of purchase. Remember also that our show rules require you to own a plant for at least six months prior to the show if you want to enter a truss from it. (The only exception to this rule pertains to trusses obtained from plants of *R. macrophyllum*) Trusses of plants purchased in October will qualify for entry in our April show. Chapter nurseries that participate in this program are Bones Nursery, Roadside Rhododendrons, Shepherd's Gardens, Thompson's Nursery, and Greer Gardens.

I want to thank all of our Chapter members who attended and participated in the ARS Western Regional Convention, which was a huge success. The presentations were excellent. The plant sale, in which many of our Chapter members assisted, was one of the best we've seen in some time with an abundance of plants, including some hard to find varieties. The foliage display that our Chapter exhibited, under the direction of Linda Lanning, drew rave reviews. Our Chapter won the award for having the most members in attendance and if there had been an award for 'enthusiasm' we would have won that too.

If you haven't yet paid your ARS dues, you should do so soon, and consider giving a family member or friend a gift membership so they can share in the fun of Chapter activities with you, and the rest of us rhodyophiles.

We have harvested the seed from several of the superior *R. macrophyllum* plants we have identified and continue to observe. Many of the *R. macrophyllum* plants did not bloom well last year so, in some cases, seed was not available. Happily, all of the plants I've seen this fall have a heavy bud set. Next spring these plant should be spectacular. If you want to grow some of this seed, let any one of the Board members know and we will provide some for you.

The Chapter program this month will be "Rhododendron 101", one of our most popular presentations. This program is primarily for novice growers those people in the beginning stages of growing rhododendrons to give them the information that will help them be successful in growing these wonderful plants. We ask that experienced growers return to those days of yesteryear when they were beginners and join in the excitement and fun of Rhododendron 101. You are almost certain to learn, or re-learn, something new. You won't want to miss it!

Everett Hall -President

SECRETARY'S REPORT

The Board was excited to welcome Linda Lanning, Newsletter Editor and Merilee Mulvey, Distribution Chair to the last board meeting. Ways to improve communication and ease in creating our famous newsletters were discussed. If you have e-mail access, be sure to let Cheryl Prchal know what it is and she, in turn, will give it to Merilee to assure you receive the newsletter. You won't want to miss even one issue!

A report was given on the Western Regional Convention in Newport. The Siuslaw Chapter got many cheers on our foliage display, winning the attendance award for the most chapter members present and for our constant help with the plant sale. Our own Linda Lanning won a ribbon for her landscape photo of President Roosevelt. All who attended the 25th Western Regional Convention had a good time.

Paul Wilson is working on membership cards to distribute in December. This card will give you a 10% discount at the participating nurseries in our area. The nurseries are Jim & Sylvia Smith's Roadside Nursery, Dave & Jan Shepherd's Shepherd's Gardens, Mike & Kathy Bones' Bones Nursery and Roy & Evelyn Thompson's Thompson Nursery.

Caps will be available soon with embroidered "Siuslaw Chapter American Rhododendron Society" on them. The caps are green with white writing and look good! Cost is \$10.00. Cheryl Prchal has some on hand now.

Anyone that enjoys cutting pictures or articles out of the paper or putting photographs in albums, you are needed! Wendy Grant is retiring as our Chapter Historian and needs a replacement. See any board member if you are interested.

October is Plant a Rhody Month! Your board is encouraging all businesses along Hwy 101 to plant rhodies in front of their places. Check out the Mini Storage business for doing just that!

Dues time is here! See Cheryl Prchal about paying your dues and don't miss any of the Journals! Mike devours his journal every time it comes. I get one, too, and work hard to keep him from sucking in mine!

Keep those rain dances coming! We sure could use some wetness soon!

Kathy Bones, Secretary

Dear Dr. Rhody,

This summer some of my favorite plants suffered leaf burn. These plants have never been affected by heat before. Do you have any possible explanations for the damage?

I have an automatic watering system and it was set the same as it has been for the last five years. The temperature this summer did not exceed 95* F. Last summer, and the summer before, we had temperatures of at least 103*F. What could cause this damage?

Burned

Dear Burned,

This is a very timely question. Your concern was raised by many of the people I talked to at the Western Regional Convention. After many discussions, I believe I can answer your query. I don't remember who first proposed the explanation that I consider to be the most likely reason for your, my, and many others' damage.

It is true that we didn't have any really hot days this summer. There were however, depending on where you live in Western Oregon, anywhere from 10 to 16 days in a row of 90*F. or higher. During this time the temperatures at night were very high as well. Such a high continual temperature causes plants to transpire a lot of water. If the watering systems were not adjusted to provide more than the usual moisture the plant could possibly suffer leaf burn. Not from direct sun, but due to a lack of sufficient moisture in the plant.

This proposed explanation makes sense to me. I, and others I talked to actually had plants suffer leaf burn in almost total shade. This theory could account for such a strange occurrence.

Dr. Rhody



Plant of the Month by Everett Hall

The plant of the month is *R. campylocarpum*. This plant was introduced into cultivation by plant explorer in 1849 after he found it growing in Sikkim and adjacent areas. It was later found by other plant collectors in Nepal, Tibet and elsewhere. *R. campylocarpum*, like many of the other species, is variable in height, growth habit and flower color. All of the plants that I have seen have yellow or cream colored flowers, but it is reported to also be found in its native habitat with pink rose-purple and ivory-white flowers. The leaves on this plant are oblong, up to four inches long and half that wide, shiny dark green on the upper side and paler green on the underside, which are very attractive. The growth habit can vary from dwarf plants to very tall plants and everything in between. The lower growing forms seem to be the most desirable, forming mounds usually more wide than tall. Bell-shaped flowers are held in loose trusses of three to seven flowers covering the plant with color in April or early May in our coastal area. This plant has been widely used in hybridizing and several of the plants we grow in our gardens have *R. campylocarpum* in their ancestry - including 'Unique', 'Mrs. Betty Robertson', 'Moonstone' and 'Sunspray'. If you want to include a yellow flowered species in your garden, you should consider *R. campylocarpum*, as it is not only attractive in every season of the year, it is also fairly easy to grow in our coastal climate.



This was part of our foliage display at the Newport Convention September 9-11. The various foliages amazed and informed the convention goers of the glorious plants to enjoy once the blooms are done. Our Club received many compliments on the display and it seemed to open their eyes to a new way of looking at Rhododendrons!

Linda Lanning

**Tell your neighbors! Tell your
friends!**

**October is
"PLANT A RHODY MONTH"**



The Siuslaw Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society encourages residents of Florence, The "City of Rhododendrons," and the surrounding areas to plant rhodies in the landscape during October.

Member nurseries are offering a 10% discount when you mention "Plant A Rhody Month". Participating nurseries are: *Thompson's Nursery in Waldport, Bones Nursery north of Florence, Shepherd's Gardens south of Florence, Roadside Rhododendrons in Mapleton, and Greer Gardens in Eugene.*

Let's all do our part to beautify the Florence area so it really blossoms during the 100th anniversary of the "City of Rhododendron Parade and Festival" in 2007.

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.

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Membership Renewal Time

By now everyone should have received a membership renewal. If you have not received one or if you have any questions, please call me @ (541) 902-7637 or <mailto:rhodyholic@yahoo.com>. The chapter would like to wrap up all the renewals as soon as possible so we may get a new roster out to you.

Cheryl Prchal

COOKIE BAKERS:

4. BARBARA CHASE

5. TONI BALANCO

6. JENNY VELINTY

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

Gallagher Park could use a few more hands on Thursday after the meeting, October 20th. Come out about 10am til noon. This is not hard work, just a hoe and some clippers to get rid of some of the blackberries that are getting out of hand. 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.