



# Macrophyllum

October 2006

Newsletter of the  
**Siuslaw Chapter**  
**American Rhododendron Society**  
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## UPCOMING Chapter Events

**Chapter Meeting** – the October meeting is on the 17<sup>th</sup> at 7PM at the Presbyterian Church on Hwy 101. Pre-meeting dinner will be at Hickory's BBQ at 5:30 pm. Contact Eileen McKinney for reservations (541) 997-2222 or [egmc@charter.net](mailto:egmc@charter.net). Don't forget that if you won a door prize at the Sept meeting, get your definition for the word you received done and ready for the October meeting. You can use pictures, drawings or whatever helps you get the point across!

**Membership Renewal-** If you haven't already renewed your membership during the September meeting, be sure to send in your payment and renewal form ASAP. You can also bring it to the October meeting and give it to Rosemary Rebello. The fee is \$35 individual or \$40 family.

**Wine Tasting & Garden Workshops-** Our chapter has been invited to attend this Oregon Coast Nursery event at their facility on October 21 & 22 from 11AM to 4PM. Don't miss this tasty and educational event! There will be hourly workshops on dish gardens, living wreaths and container gardens. A bonsai workshop will only be held on Saturday. Take Hwy 101 north and turn right on Azalea Lane just 2 miles south of Waldport. (541) 563-6001.

**Gallagher Park Work Party** – Meet at 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. The park is at the corner of Spruce and Hwy 126. More info, contact Gene Cockeram- City of Florence Park & Recreation Committee.

**Mark your calendars-** October is *Plant A Rhody Month!* See the flyer on page five of this newsletter. Join in the celebration of our beautiful city by planting a rhododendron in October.

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT By: Mike Bones**

Our September meeting went well; very educational. It was nice to see so many of our members there; long time members, new members and guests. You are responsible for making our chapter what it is today... Thanks

As I write this, we have members attending the Western Regional Rhododendron Conference in Canada; some members are getting ready for the Pacific Rim Conference in Tasmania, others are planning on going to San Francisco in April to the Annual ARS Convention. What a great way to learn more about Rhododendrons and to meet more of our Rhododendron Family.

The Gallagher Park committee is really working hard to get the plans made. Our 100<sup>th</sup> Rhododendron Festival committee is busy working on projects that will be added attractions for guests who are coming in to see our Flower show. If you have any ideas, please contact one of our board members. All ideas and help are appreciated.

See you either at the next pre-dinner (Hickory's BBQ) or at our Meeting on Oct 17<sup>th</sup>. We always meet on the third Tuesday of each month. We will be learning how to asexually propagate rhodies and azaleas.



## Greer Gardens Tour – Sept 20th

We had 19 members on the Greer Gardens Tour in Eugene. Harold Greer has over 4,500 varieties of plants on his 14 acres. There were thousands of Rhodies, even some in bloom! In addition to Rhodies, he had plenty of companion plants. If you missed the tour, Greer Gardens is open 7 days a week.

Our tour group saw this beautiful "Cupcake" blooming rhody at Greer Gardens.

The next tour will be in December 2006.

**CUPCAKE** (degronianum ssp yakushmanum x Medusa)

Photo from ARS website: [www.rhododendron.org](http://www.rhododendron.org)

## WORDS OF THE MONTH

Our WORDS OF THE MONTH are botanical & horticultural terms. When using the definitions it must be kept in mind that they are not all precisely and unanimously agreed upon, though the definitions given seem to be generally accepted.

**TAXONOMY** is also known as the *International Code of Botanical Nomenclature*. It is the science of the identification, nomenclature and classification of plants and is concerned with species rhododendrons.

**SPECIES** is both a singular and plural word. Species are reproductively isolated from all other such groups and must meet 3 conditions to be in this classification.

1. Species must differ from their closest neighbors in at least 2 characteristics.
2. Species must differ in geographical distribution.
3. Species must differ in ecological distribution. (Example: sun, shade, wind, etc)

**SUB-SPECIES**, in general, do not fulfill the three characteristics of a "species" but will differ in one way or another.

**VARIETAS** (pl. Varietates, abbr. Var.) are a sub-division of a species which differ as a group in some minor definable characteristic(s) from the rest of the species such as a geographical and/or ecological unit. Generally, this is not determined simply because a group of plants is a different color.

**FORMA** (pl. Formae) refers to plants occurring in the wild showing some peculiarity such as a color variance. They may or may not breed true and many are sterile.

The "*Cultivated Code*" concerns itself with plants of horticultural importance that are not in the "species" families. It seeks to regulate horticulturally important clones, cultivars and groups.

**CULTIVAR** is an assemblage of cultivated plants which is clearly distinguished by any characteristics and which, when reproduced (sexually or asexually), retains its distinguishing character.

**VARIETY** is synonymous with "Cultivar". Many prefer "cultivar" and have dropped the use of "variety" because it is too easily confused with the word "varietas".

**CLONE** refers to a genetically uniform assemblage of plants derived originally from a single plant by asexual propagation.

**CULTIVARIANT** is a plant which appears different in habit or foliage from its parents. It is also commonly called a "sport".

## Rhododendron of the Month Taurus



Photo by Charles King

Taurus is another of the rhododendrons on our “do good” list for our area. It is the large red one that people see in late March, early April just when they start thinking about their gardens. It is a show stopper. Taurus received the S.P.A. (superior plant award) in 1990. In ten years it can be a 6 X 6 foot plant. The dark green leaves are a great contrast to its red flower buds during the winter and then the flowers come out...Wow! This plant was hybridized by Dr Frank Mossman, who is a member of the Tualatin Valley Chapter west of Portland. Dr. Mossman took pollen from *R. strigillosum* and put it on to “The Honourable Jean Marie de Montaque and came up with this great hybrid. Taurus would be an added attraction to your garden.

### Dear Dr. Rhody

Dear Dr. Rhody,

We have an unusual problem with our rhodies this summer. Several of our bushes have put out new growth with wrinkled, deformed leaves that are also a light green color. In addition, I notice that a large number of our rhodies have dead leaves. One half of the leaf turns black and brittle while the other half next to the stem is still green. This is the only summer I have noticed these two problems. Any ideas about what is causing these problems? Vicki Osis

Dear Vicki,

Yes, I have a couple of thoughts concerning your rhodies. The wrinkled, deformed new growth can be caused by a freeze just as the leaves begin to develop. I have many plants that have shown this type of new growth. Next year the new growth will be normal and it will be very difficult to even see the wrinkled leaves. I have been taught in seminars that there are some insect grubs that can cause the leaves to be deformed and wrinkled. I don't believe I have ever had this problem, but it can occur.

The black brittle leaves are another concern. Without a sample to view, I can only guess at a possible explanation. My first guess would be wind damage. You live in an area that has lots of wind. If new growth is affected by enough wind, all of the moisture is transpired or evaporated from the leaf and the cells can die. This usually occurs on the tips and ends of the leaves on the outside of the plant.

Excess fertilizer is another possible cause of leaf end damage. I believe the wind is your most likely culprit. Dr. Rhody

October suggestions from your O.S.U. extension agent.

- Mulch roses, azaleas, rhododendrons for winter protection.
- Store garden supplies and fertilizers in a safe, dry place out of reach of children.
- Clean up annual flower beds; mulch with manure or compost.
- Plant ground covers and shrubs.
- Western Oregon: fertilize for the last time this year.
- Clean and oil tools and equipment before storing for winter.

## SECRETARY'S REPORT By: Kathy Bones

The board met on September 12 to do the Chapter business. We have a “**Dream Team**” that was formed to plan for the Rhododendron Festival's 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. They are Mike Bones, Jeannie Shields and Jim Smith right now. They are hoping more will join this committee and bring ideas with them. We want to celebrate this landmark in grand style!

There will be a float for our Chapter in the **Grand Floral Parade** on the Sunday of Rhody weekend. Jerry & Stephanie Nordin and Bill & Sandy Hennig are working on this project and can use your help! Whether it's ideas for the float or muscles building it, all is needed.

Jim & Sylvia Smith and Jeannie Shields are working on an **insert** full of information about our May flower show to be mailed out with a pamphlet from the Chamber to all Rhododendron members in Oregon. The Chamber pamphlet will include places to stay while in Florence and points of interest to visit. Watch your mail box for this in October.

**Gallagher Park** has been getting lots of attention lately and will be beautiful by Rhody weekend next year. Join one of the work parties and help make this happen.

The **City of Rhododendrons Contest** has two areas to be considered this year. One is inside the city limits and the other outside the city limits. Boundaries are Lane County lines north and south. Judges will be looking for the best macrophyllum based on the size and volume of the biggest one. Look around and submit as many as you can find.

The **Early Show** will remain on April 14/15 even though it conflicts with the National Convention in San Francisco. **Garden Tours** will continue through December. The board is suggesting you attend another Chapter's meeting in the cold months. The speakers for these meetings will be posted.

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### Welcome new members:

John & Joan Skarda, Bob & Ginger Bell, Jim Rassmann, Byron & Susan Nofrey, and Gary & Linda Swartz. Welcome also to associate member, Elizabeth Hultin.

### Siuslaw Chapter ARS Mission Statement

The Mission of the Siuslaw Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society is to promote the genus Rhododendron by:

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- 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.

OCTOBER IS

# PLANT A RHODY MONTH

SPONSORED BY THE

SIUSLAW CHAPTER

AMERICAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

October is the perfect time to plant rhododendrons! The following nurseries are offering a 10% discount on all rhodies purchased during October:

**Thompson's Nursery in Waldport**  
**Bones Nursery north of Florence**  
**Shepherd's Gardens south of Florence**  
**Roadside Rhododendrons in Mapleton**  
**Greer Gardens in Eugene**

The nurseries have photos to show how the plant will look in bloom and suggestions for proper planting and placement in your garden.

**Florence is the "City of Rhododendrons"**  
Help beautify our city for the 100th Anniversary Celebration  
of the Rhododendron Festival.