



# Macrophyllum

September 2003

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



## Upcoming Rhododendron Events

**October 2, 2003**

### Gallagher Park Work Party

Chapter work parties will help maintain the Park on the first **Thursday** of each month between 10 a.m. & noon. **Please note the new day.** WE NEED YOUR HELP!

**October 3 - 5, 2003**

### ARS Western Regional Conference, Seaside, Oregon

The program is filled with opportunities to enhance your knowledge of rhododendrons. Details about the program and hotels are available in the Summer 2003 issue of the Journal American Rhododendron Society or by contacting Rich Aaring at (541) 485-6013, or Mike Bones at (541) 997-3082.

Time is flying; plan now to attend.

**October 21, 2003**

### Chapter Meeting

## 2004 ARS Dues

Annual American Rhododendron Society dues for 2004 (Individual, \$35; Family, \$40) are now payable. If you have not received your dues statement, please contact Dianne Gilmour at (541) 902-1970.

## Cutting Parties

This is the time of year that it may be possible to propagate cuttings from your rhodys to produce genetically identical plants. Although it is theoretically possible to sometimes achieve this goal through laboratory techniques known as cloning, this approach is technically very complex and usually not feasible without extensive experience and access to appropriate laboratory facilities.

Plants produced from seed usually yield plants that differ from the parent in an unpredictable manner because of the genetic heterogeneity of seeds. Propagation through grafting gives plants that have genetically identical grafted portions of the plant, but also offers a potential for outgrowths of the rootstock used for the grafting.

In order to assist our members in learning how to propagate rhodys by taking cuttings, the Siuslaw and Southwestern Oregon Chapters of the ARS have arranged two sessions.

The Southwestern Oregon Chapter cutting party will be held on Saturday, September 13 beginning at 10:00 a.m. at Ann & Tom Drake's on Rink Creek Lane in Coquille, OR. All that you need bring is a sack lunch and healthy enthusiasm. A call to Ann or Tom at 541 396-2718 may be helpful in obtaining directions.

The Siuslaw Chapter will have a cutting party at Gene & Doris Cockeram's on Thursday, September 18 at 1 p.m. The Cockerams live at 5306 Boy Scout Road south of Florence. You may want to give them a call at 541 997-2377 should you need help in finding them. All of the necessary materials will be provided.

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## SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

### September Chapter Meeting

*What:* Plant Auction

*When:* 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday, Sept. 16  
7 p.m.

### NOTE DIFFERENT MEETING LOCATION

*Where:* Florence Middle School  
2525 Oak St.  
Florence, OR

### Pre-meeting Dinner:

Firehouse Restaurant at 5 p.m.

For reservations contact

Eileen McKenney at

(541) 997-2222, or

<mailto:egmc@oregonfast.net>

### Cookies

Doris Cockeram

Karen Timmons

Jenny Velinty

## Cutting Parties

**Southwestern Oregon Chapter:** Sept. 13

**Siuslaw Chapter:** Sept. 18

See details at the left

### From the VP

Those of us who live in the Central Oregon Coast area know that every month of the year has something wonderful about it. But September just has to be one of the most special months of all - the month when we leave summer and move into autumn with warm days and cool nights and our favorite plants that have struggled through the long dry summer are beginning to look happy again. But even though the weather is cooling down, the fall rains have not yet begun so be sure not to let your plants get dry.

Our last regular meeting was in May but we've managed to stay in touch with everyone during the summer by having two really scrumptious picnics, one in June and one in August. We had forty-five members and several children take part in the August picnic. I forgot to count how many people came to the June picnic but it was about the same.

Our search to identify the location of the better forms of *R. Macrophyllum*, and save those plants that are threatened, led us into places we had not been before and, although not as many plants were reported to us as we had last year, there were some notable plants identified. On the Mr. And Mrs. Ralph Jones property near Yachats we saw and marked a very nice white form that was in full bloom and as we further explored the property we came upon two excellent deep pink blooming plants that are at least thirty feet tall. The problem is how to get up into the plants to obtain cuttings.

Farther North, in the Seal Rock area, we found many superior plants, including one that is unusual in the shape of the flowers. It is a deep pink with a full truss. We know that *R. Macrophyllum*, like the other species rhododendrons, varies considerably in growth habit, flower color, and the shape and size of their leaves and trusses. As we search for these plants we are learning more about just how much difference in them there really is.

While searching for superior plants in the Charleston area, Gene Cockeram and I stumbled upon some of the finest plants of *R. Ledum* that either one of us had ever seen. The trusses on these plants were exceptionally large.

We will be collecting seed from these plants and seed from some of the finer forms of *R. Macrophyllum* to distribute to those of you who wish to grow some of these plants. Superior plants should produce superior seedlings.

Hopefully, September is also the month we begin having our regular monthly meetings. Our location for this month has changed. We will be meeting at the Middle School at 27<sup>th</sup> St. and Oak Street. Prior to the meeting we will be having dinner together at the Firehouse restaurant on Bay Street. Call Eileen McKinney at (541) 997-2222 for reservations. Dinner is at five o'clock and the meeting starts at seven. Our meeting this time will be another of our fun-filled auctions, so bring some plants for the sale and buy some for your garden.

You still have time to register for the Western Regional Conference to be held in Seaside on October 1-3. The program looks interesting and the plant sale sounds like it will be really good. If you have lost your registration form, call President Mike. I'm sure he can get you another one.

**Everett Hall, Vice President**

### Useful information on rhododendrons is to be found at these net sites!

American Rhododendron Society:  
<http://www.rhododendron.org>

Rhododendron & Azalea News:  
<http://www.rhododendron.org/news/home.htm>

Eugene ARS Chapter:  
<http://www.eugene-chapter-ars.org>

### Dr. Rhody,

Hi Rhody lovers. I hope that you all had a pleasant summer. There are a few items I would like to bring to your attention as we prepare for the fall and winter seasons.

This is the time of year when we actually suffer from a drought period. (Those who are unfamiliar with our climate would find such a statement difficult to believe.) It is important that you observe your older established plants. It is frequently necessary to provide a little water during August and September. I realize you all know that newly planted rhodys that need to be watered on regular intervals. Older more mature plants will also benefit from some occasional watering during our "drought" season. It is not necessary to water the older plants everyday or to really soak the area. Providing some moisture will definitely be beneficial to the good health of your plants.

This is about the time of year we should decrease any regular fertilizing schedule. Fertilizing should be in moderation if at all. We all remember last year's sudden October freeze. Even those of us who should know better suffered plant damage because we were trying to encourage more plant growth by applying late summer and fall fertilizer.

We need to encourage our plants to be setting flower buds for next spring. We don't want to encourage new growth that can be damaged by the cold. Fertilizer encourages new growth that is very susceptible to freezing temperatures. Furthermore, direction of the plant to leaf growth may diminish the production of flower buds.

It is also a perfect time to be preparing areas for fall planting. In our location this usually requires weed and brush elimination. Add bark and/or mulch to your sand in a one to one ratio where you intend to plant. Mix thoroughly and the bark will begin to break down when the rains begin in earnest - around the end of October. You will be ready to plant the rhody that will give you the "Best in Show" truss.

**Dr. Rhody**



**Plant of the Month: *R. williamsianum***

To start the new season I've selected a species that is one of the prettiest and most beloved in the genus. *R. williamsianum* was found growing on a mountainside cliff in Western Schezuan, China in 1908 by plant hunter Ernest Wilson. It was later found in the same region by other plant hunters.

*R. williamsianum* is usually described as a dwarf rhododendron, however there seems to be three different distinct forms growing in gardens. One form grows into a small to large rounded shrub up to five feet tall. The second form grows into a dome-shaped mound up to about three feet high. The third form - and the one I like best, and the one I grow - grows into a dwarf-spreading shrub. All three forms have tight compact growth and the same wonderful foliage,

It is the foliage of *R. williamsianum* that quickly gets your attention, especially the new growth. The leaves are small and orbicular (round) maybe up to two inches in length. When the new leaves emerge in the spring they are a delightful chocolate color (sometimes described as bronze or bronzy-copper) that slowly matures into a bright dark green leaf with a waxy blue-green underside.

The flowers are bell shaped carried in trusses of two or three flowers and can be any shade of pink. The darker pink forms are considered to be the most desirable. It will bloom best here in the central coast area if you plant it in full sun. However, this plant will suffer in times of drought unless you water it faithfully. *R. williamsianum* will grow for you if you give it good drainage. Remember that Wilson found it growing on a cliff. Now that's good drainage!

*R. williamsianum* has been widely used in hybridizing and some of the finest hybrids we grow in our gardens have *R. williamsianum* in their lineage. If you want a plant in your garden that you will enjoy every month of the year, including glorious September, *R. williamsianum* is a species that is sure to please you.

**Everett Hall, Vice President**



***R. williamsianum* photos courtesy of Everett Hall**

### Siuslaw Chapter ARS May 2003 Rhododendron Show

**What a show!**

**939 Trusses,  
the largest  
rhody show  
in the U.S. to  
date!**

**44 Different  
ribbon  
winners!**



**8 Different  
trophy  
winners!**

**Great trusses  
of every  
color and a  
good crowd  
to appreciate  
them!**



**Thank  
you, Jim  
and  
members,  
for a great  
show!**

Photos by  
Paul Wilson

**Secretary's Report: June 8, 2003 Siuslaw Chapter ARS Picnic**

Over 60 people attended the picnic and enjoyed the great food.

It was announced Sandi and Bruce Huffman have moved to Waldport. Dianne Gilmore has agreed to finish out Sandi's term of the office as treasurer.

Voting for the 3 year term of office for Member at Large was held. Karen Timmons was nominated. Dave Shepherd made a MOTION to close the nominations. Everett Hall seconded it. PASSED.

There is no board meeting in June. The next one is July 8.

Eileen McKenney was thanked for all her faithfulness and work on the board.

Jim Smith gave seedlings away as a thank you for all the great help at the shows. The late show was a success! Dr. DeVern Pinnock painted a picture of a rhododendron that was auctioned off and went for \$130 for our Chapter's use.

Next general meeting is a picnic on August 23, at Honeyman State Park.

We adjourned for the plant game.

*Kathy Bones, Secretary*

**Secretary's Report: July 15, 2003 Board Meeting**

The new board met and began organizing the 2003 - 2004 meetings for the chapter. Everett Hall made a motion for Dianne Gilmore to finish Sandi Huffman's term as treasurer for 1 year. There will be a customary audit before Dianne takes the books. Jim Smith seconded it and it passed. Karen Timmons, Member at Large, and Dianne were welcomed to the board.

Mike Bones wants everyone to be sure to notice the signup form in the Journal for the Western Regional we are co-hosting in Seaside this October 3-5. Get your motel rooms now! Be looking toward to September 2004 when the conference will be in Hilo, Hawaii!

Our own Jeannie Shields has an article about the native rhododendron in the Journal this month you won't want to miss!

September 16 will be our first regular meeting of the season and will be an auction. The door prize that month will be the opportunity to choose from ANY of the plants to be auctioned. Don't forget the August 23 picnic at the Yurt at Honeyman State Park.

A rough draft for the meetings of the year was made; it looks like a very interesting and entertaining roster.

The budget will be addressed at the August board meeting.

*Kathy Bones, Secretary*

**The "Cookie Sheet" for 2003 - 2004**

Jenny Velinty has assembled an awesome array of "Cookie Providers" for our upcoming meetings as shown below. We will continue to list the names of the individuals who have signed up in the newsletter that will be distributed prior to each meeting, but "walk-in" contributors are welcome. If in doubt as to the list, you might want to call Jenny (997-7573) or Freda Ziegelmaier (902-0584) to refresh your memory.

Date	Coffee maker/Cookies	Cookies/Snacks	Cookies/Snacks
Sept 16, 2003	Doris Cockeram	Karen Timmons	Jenny Velinty
Oct 21	Lee May	Judy Johnson	JoAnn Wilson
Nov 18	Jan Woodford	Marjene MacIntyre	Karen Timmons
Dec 7		<b>Holiday Potluck Dinner</b>	
Jan 20, 2004	Marty Beam	Dianne Ginn	Betty Uchtyl
Feb 17	Jean McPhillips	Helen Swanson	Betty King
Mar 16	Sandi Jensen	Sylvia Smith	Jan Shepherd
Apr 20	Cheryl Prchal	Linda Lanning	Nancy Hawley
May 18	Betty McColl	Ann Drake	Wendy Grant
June		<b>Potluck Picnic</b>	



**Bruce Huffman**

We remember a member and contributor to the Siuslaw Chapter, and friend, who passed away on July 29, 2003.