



Macrophyllum

Sept 2004

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

Secretary's Report

The board did not meet this month.

Kathy Bones, Secretary

NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to the Siuslaw Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society.

Barbara and Bob Chase of Florence, OR

Everett Hall

Below, Mike Bones, **in long pants!!!** Taken at our March 4, 2004 Gallagher Park work party. I wanted to share this picture but have not had Newsletter room till now.
Chris



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CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER

Chapter Meeting

When: Tuesday, September 21, 7PM.

What: Our meeting will be a slide presentation showing the large range of the rhododendron family, from the tropical ones that grow in New Guinea to the ones that grow up to 13,000 foot elevation in Sikkim.

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

Pre-meeting Dinner:

5 p.m. at ICM on Bay Street. As usual there will be limited menu at a discounted price.

Call Eileen McKenney at

(541) 997-2222, or

<mailto:egmc@oregonfast.net>

Reservations are needed

President's Report

The August picnic was a great start for our new season. We had a good turnout and, except for a mix-up on who had the key to the gate, everyone seemed to have a good time.

As our Treasurer Cheryl Prchal, informed us at the picnic, it is time to pay our annual ARS dues. There has been a slight increase in dues and now individual membership is \$35.00 and family [two people] \$40.00. Considering what we get for our money, these dues are a great bargain. The ARS journal comes every three months and it is full of information, beautiful pictures and complete descriptions of plants being registered. By taking advantage of the benefits offered by the Chapter you can probably save the entire amount paid for dues. Consider: 10% discounts on rhododendrons and azaleas purchased at member nurseries; 25% discounts on a wide variety of books made available by our Book chairperson Marianne Horney; plant tags available at our bulk rate; rhododendron fertilizer available at our 'by the ton' rate; and, for new members, an instant \$5.00 worth of plant drawing tickets. In addition, our plant auctions give you an opportunity to purchase 'hard-to-find plants'; our programs and activities will give you instructions on how to raise, care for, and propagate rhododendrons and azaleas; our garden tours, arranged by chairperson Debbie Peterson take us into beautiful private and public gardens that we can all enjoy together; our potluck dinners where we enjoy each others company while eating great meals; our 'before meeting' dinners at local restaurants are always well attended and are very enjoyable; the opportunity to attend rhododendron conferences where we can not only learn more about our favorite plants but also purchase new addition to our plants at the plant sale; the opportunity to work together and help beautify our community by maintaining Gallagher park and the rhododendrons that grow so well there; and to share in our efforts to locate and save the best plants of *R. macrophyllum* before they are lost to 'progress' and development. Most important of all, are the wonderful friends we make who share our hobby [or affliction?] with us.

Before our next meeting on September 21th, we will be meeting for dinner at 5:00p.m. at ICM restaurant on Bay street before going on to our new meeting place-the Presbyterian Church of the Siuslaw located about two blocks south of the Bi-mart complex on highway 101. Please call Eileen McKenny at 997-2222 and let her know you will be attending so she can make our group reservations.

There will be a cutting exchange at the meeting so bring a few cuttings of your favorite plant to share with others. Put them in a plastic bag and label the bag so everyone will know the contents. When I select cuttings, I write the name of the variety on the back of one of the leaves with a ball-point pen. Works great unless the leaf has heavy indumentomas as does *R. yakushmanum*.

Those of us who will be attending the Western Regional conference have agreed to take pictures to share when we return. So be warned.

Speaking of conferences, you may have noticed in the ARS Journal that the next ARS conference will be held in Victoria, B.C. April 25-May 1, 2005. There was an ARS conference there a few years ago that the lucky people who were able to attend are still talking about. Victoria is a lovely city and is within driving distance. Hopefully we will have a nice representation of our chapter there.

September is one of the most wonderful months of the year here in the Central Coast Area. Many our rhododendrons are starting to flirt with us by showing us a few flowers, hinting at the beauty that they will display in the spring. So enjoy every day of it and I'll see you when I get back from the Hilo conference. Aloha.

Everett Hall, President



Gallagher Park

It was suggested at the last board meeting that we have the Gallagher work day on Tuesdays so that all Rodie activities would be easier to remember, so I think we will try the second Tuesday, the same day as the board meeting day as our work day in Gallagher park, that way remember TUESDAY-TUESDAY-TUESDAY!

For September that will be Tuesday, Sept 14.

Try to arrive by 9:30 AM and be prepared for lots of weeding and pruning.

Gene



Rhododendron Events

September 21-26, 2004: ARS Western Regional Conference, Hilo, HI

November 2-4, 2004: New Zealand Rhododendron Association 60th Anniversary Conference, Gore, Southland, New Zealand.

April 27-May 1, 2005: ARS National Convention, Victoria, BC

Sept 9-12, 2005: 25th Western Regional, Newport, OR

Nov 4-6, 2005: NE Regional, East Windsor, NJ

May 12-15, 2006: ARS National Convention, Washington, DC

Shirts For Sale

Sweat shirts with Siuslaw Logo: \$14.00, XL. T-Shirts--L and XL \$7.00, 2X,\$9.00, 3X \$10.00
Call Dave Shepherd 997-2283.

They will also be available at the meeting.

Plant of the Month (pictured above)

When we attended the ARS conference in Olympia, we went on several garden tours – one of the many benefits of going to a conference. In one of the gardens we visited I saw a plant of *R. habrotrichum* [no I did not make up that name!] This was the first and only time I have seen this plant and I don't know a great deal about it. However, what I do know is this: *R.habrotrichum* is in sub-section Glishra along with several other related, uncommon, but beautiful, rhododendrons. George Forrest, a famous plant collector, was the first plant collector to find the plant in 1912, growing in the Chinese province of Yunnan. It was later found by other plant collectors in areas of Burma and Tibet. In cultivation it usually does not exceed ten feet in height, but in it's natural habitat it will become a small tree perhaps twenty feet tall. It has medium sized dark green leaves, longer than wide, that are retained for two years. The flowers have a very small calyx and are held in trusses of up to twenty deep-rose to plum-rose to almost white flowers. But it is the reddish bristles that cover the branchlets, mid-ribs of the leaves and leaf stalks [petioles], that really give this plant interest. These bristles give the plant a reddish sheen, especially when the sun shines through them, which is very attractive. Unfortunately my pictures did not capture this feature. Like many rhododendrons, *R.habrotrichum* requires sharp drainage and protection from the hot sun, such as we experienced the past two summers. If you want to collect a plant most of us do not have, and one that is sure to add interest and beauty to your garden, seek out and purchase this plant. It's out there but you'll have to look for it.

Everett Hall

