



Macrophyllum

September 2005

Newsletter of the
Siuslaw Chapter
American Rhododendron Society
Post Office Box 1701
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Presidents Report

We've managed to stay busy with Chapter activities this past summer. Two great picnics (two other picnics with our sister- Southwest Chapter) and an azalea cutting party that was fun although not a huge crowd attended this educational event. Also a grand garden tour to Thyme Herb Garden, arranged by our tour chairperson, Debbie Peterson. It was so enjoyable there may be a repeat performance next year.

The long dry summer took its toll on some of my plants that were exposed to the sun. There are lots of yellow and burned leaves and some plants that have gone to plant heaven. It wasn't any particularly horrid hot day such as we had a year ago that fried some of our beauties. It seems that some of the plants that were exposed to the heat day after day were damaged or killed despite being constantly watered. Slow baked, I guess.

But now it's September and time to get back into the routine of participating in the Chapter activities. September is such a wonderful month here on the Central Oregon Coast. You almost see your plants smile as they enjoy the warm (not hot) sunny days and cool nights. Our rhododendrons don't need as much attention now as they did during the dry season and we can all relax and enjoy living in one of the beautiful locations on earth.

One of the events we always look forward to in September is the ARS Western Regional Convention, being held this year right in our own area- Agate Beach, just north of Newport. These fall meetings are a great way of getting our minds focused on our favorite garden plants and renewing our friendships with those folks who share our hobby. If you haven't yet registered, it's not too late. There will be some outstanding presentations and a plant sale that will give you the opportunity to find that special plant you have been looking for.

Some of us will be staying in Agate Beach/ Newport while we attend the convention and some of us will be driving up daily to attend the sessions. Whichever option you choose, I'm sure you'll enjoy this years ARS Western Regional Convention, September 9th to 11th.

Remember, it's time to pay your ARS dues. As you know, in our Chapter we don't pay any attention to the type of membership dues you pay. To us, a member is a member- period. Considering all of the benefits the ARS and our Chapter provides, you get a great bargain for your money and the very best part of the bargain is the wonderful friends you make and the fun times we have together sharing our Chapter activities. And don't forget, for another \$8.00 you can become a member of another chapter and enjoy yourself even more.

The Board of Directors has finished their budget work (it balances) and Chapter programs for the coming year. I think you will be pleased with the presentations we have planned which include Rhododendron 101, Rhododendron 202, two plant auctions and other exciting events. Marianne Horney has some wonderful new books coming that will be offered to members at our lowest possible discount prices and Debbie Petersen is already planning our garden tours. I predict this could be our very finest year yet!

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CALENDAR

September Chapter Meeting

When: Tuesday, Sept 20, 7PM

What: Propagating Rhodies /Azalea

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

Pre-meeting Dinner:

5PM at Hickory BBQ- 1585 9th St
Selection: Baby Back Ribs, BBQ
Chicken, Top Sirloin Steak, or Salm
Let Eileen know which entrée you w
as the restaurant needs to know bef
you arrive.

Contact Eileen McKenney by the 17
for Reservations:

(541) 997-2222 or

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Cookie Bakers:

1. Cheryl Prchal
2. Rosemary Rebello
3. Lee May

SEPTEMBER

When: Sept 9-11th

What: ARS Convention, Best Weste
In Newport, Or

Continued

The Board of Directors have also developed and adopted a Chapter Mission Statement that will appear in each issue of our newsletter and at all of our Chapter functions. This mission statement will serve as a constant reminder of who we are and what we strive to achieve. Please read it carefully as it defines the purpose of our existence.

The Chapter has some new signs for sale. Designed by Jeff Grant, the signs declare your property to be a 'protected area' by the Siuslaw Chapter ARS. These signs work. We put up one on our place and the people who had been driving pickup trucks and motorbikes into our new garden area have ceased to do so. These signs are very attractive and a great way to get our name out where the public will see it and be more aware of us. These signs are available from Phil Lanning for only \$9.00 apiece.

Our meetings will continue to be held at the Presbyterian Church of the Siuslaw on the third Tuesday of each month from September through May. (Except for December)

Our program for our next meeting will be about the propagation of rhododendrons and azaleas. We will be discussing growing rhododendrons from seed, taking and rooting cuttings and grafting rhododendrons. We will tell you how, when, and why. You won't want to miss this earthshaking event.

Our pre-meeting dinners are always well attended. It's fun to have dinner together before the meeting. This month's restaurant of choice is Hickory's Barbeque on 9th Street. Dinner is at 5:00 p.m. I'll see you there. I'll be the one with barbeque sauce on my face and probably on my shirt.

Everett Hall, President

Welcome to our newest members!!

Karen Cyris
John and Rosalie Raudsep
Ann and Art Rule
Betty Johnson

Veronica Zecchini and Tom Jackson

Stephanie and Jerry Nordin
John Kelsey
Jan Landrum
Edward and Jackie Mochol

Dear Dr. Rhody,

Dr. Rhody,

The leaves on my plants shriveled up with the high heat this week. What should I do??
Cheryl

Dear Cheryl,

I am assuming the shriveled leaves are new growth. When the leaves are damaged early in the year it is possible to cut off the damaged section and additional new growth will develop before fall. It is often possible to get flower buds on the new branches if you remove the damaged material soon enough.

Dr. Rhody

Dear Rhody Friends,

It has been my experience that a major cause of Rhododendron demise is a variety of root problems. Phytophthora and other similar root fungus problems are major contributors. Until recently growers only recourse was to apply some Subdue or a similar preventative. This worked but when applications stopped it was possible for the plant to become infected.

Fortunately there are new products on the market that appear to fight fungal diseases and help promote root growth. Actino-Iron is a biological soil additive that works to help the plant combat fungus invasions. Root Shield is a beneficial fungus. It provides a natural season-long control of root diseases. It grows on the plants roots and protects against harmful fungi.

Both products are non-toxic to humans and animals and are environmentally friendly.

Some of the local growers are using these products. Hopefully they will be help in protecting our treasures.

Dr. Rhody



Plant of the Month

In our last Newsletter I talked about *R. proteoides* and included a picture, unfortunately mislabeled, as the picture was not *R. proteoides*. I keep my pictures on slides and on a photo CD. I was running a bit late and unintentionally sent the wrong picture to the editor. The picture of *R. proteoides* was the next picture on the disc. If any of you are keeping copies of our newsletter, you should go back and label that picture *R. oops*!

This month's selection is *R. saluenense*. There are a few other species in Sub-section *Saluenensia*, but I am only going to talk about *R. saluenense* this month and save some of the others for another time as there are a couple of real beauties in this sub-section.

R. saluenense was first described in 1894 but it wasn't introduced until 1914 when plant hunter George Forrest found it growing in China. It was later found by other plant hunters in China and Tibet growing in alpine meadows, on cliff sides amongst boulders and along side mountain streams.

It is a variable species- there are, apparently, five different forms growing in the wild ranging in height from almost prostrate forms to plants nearly five feet in height. I have never seen the taller growing forms and don't know if any of these are being grown here in the Pacific Northwest.

It is a bushy shrub with branches and leaf stalks covered with bristly hairs. The oval -shaped leaves are dark green more or less an inch long and about half as wide as they are long. These leaves have a pleasing fragrance that adds to the desirability of the plant.

The flower trusses are composed of one to three funnel shaped flowers that can be light lilac, shades of light purple or reddish- purple. They can also have darker spotting inside the flower.

This plant can be used in a rock garden or tucked away in a special location. It blooms in April in our Central Coast area- even in March if we have had a mild winter.

Remember, this is an alpine rhododendron and it won't like being 'slow baked' as many of our plants were this past summer.

R. saluenense is a very desirable garden plant you will be able to enjoy every season of the year.

Everett Hall

Secretary's Report

Siuslaw Chapter ARS Picnic
August 9, 2005

Everett Hall welcomed everyone and thanked them for the great food. He announced that the board has adopted a Mission Statement and that it will be published in the newsletter.

After research on what a newsletter editor should do, it was decided we need an editor, a backup editor and a communications committee for distribution. Yvonne Moore has agreed to be on the communications committee. More workers are needed.

Dues statements were handed out. Life membership applies only to the one person, not to include the spouse. Individual membership is \$35. Family membership is \$40. This is tax deductible. Cheryl Prchal requested to the membership to let her know if your e-mail address changed as soon as possible. You will receive a notice that the newsletter is available and a hot link where you can go to see the newsletter.

Cheryl has a sign up sheet for anyone wanting a hard plastic nametag in the shape of the state of Oregon.

The yard signs designed by Jeff Grant may be purchased for \$9.00, from Phil Lanning.

Everett thanked all for coming and adjourned to the plant game.

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It may have been a quiet summer but your board was active and working on Chapter business during it!

At the June picnic, Pete Peterson was welcomed to the Board as one of the new directors. Dave Shepherd was thanked as the retiring director for all his faithful work. Everett Hall, President, introduced the Board members for the next year: Past President and District Director is Mike Bones, Vice President is Jeannie Shields, Treasurer is Cheryl Prchal, Secretary is Kathy Bones, Directors are Phil Lanning, Paul Ziegelmaier and Pete Peterson.

The Phone Tree was activated by Freda Ziegelmaier in July to communicate with all members. It worked great and we thank Freda!

The Western Regional Convention will be happening September 9-11 in Newport. It's a fun and educational time! Our chapter will be manning the plant sale on Saturday from 11:30 AM to 5:00 PM. We also want to help the Southwest Chapter with their assigned hours, Friday, 9:30-10:30 PM. Anyone available to help with either time is welcome. At Harold Greer's request, our chapter will be putting on a foliage show at the convention. Linda and Phil Lanning and Jim Smith will work on this. It will be primarily species exhibits. If anyone has an unusual or attractive foliage display, but not planning to attend, let Jim, Everett or Mike know and they will take it up to Newport for you. There will be a prize given from Mike & Maria Stewart for the Chapter with the most members in attendance.

It's that time for dues to be paid! See Cheryl about yours if you haven't received a reminder envelope. Family membership is \$40 and an individual membership is \$35. This is tax deductible.

We all thank Linda Lanning for agreeing to be the head of the Newsletter Committee!! Thanks, Linda!! She will be Editor, Yvonne Moore is back-up Editor, and Merilee Mulvey will be distribution. Thanks to them as well!

Kathy Bones, Secretary

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.

Greetings!

It's membership renewal time once again. Renewal envelopes will be handed out at the September 20th meeting. Please complete your renewal as soon as possible. Payment may be made at the meeting or mailed to: Siuslaw ARS, P O Box 1701, Florence, OR 97439. It is extremely important that you complete the phone number and e-mail address information lines on your renewal envelope. It is also important that any changes in your e-mail address be given to me or to a Board member to ensure you receive your monthly issue of "Macrophyllum" as well as notice of other activities.

Chapter Products

We now have long-sleeved chapter t-shirts available. Sizes M, L, and XL are just \$11. Sweatshirts and short-sleeved tees are also available. Come see our selection at the next meeting.

We are once again taking orders for the hard plastic Oregon shaped membership badges. They must be pre-paid...\$5.50 each.... we need a minimum of 10 badges to order.

See Cheryl Prchal for help with these items.

Treasurer- Cheryl Prchal