



Macrophyllum

March 2004

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

From the VP

Last month there were 38 members who gathered for our 'before meeting' dinner. Charles and Betty King had been scheduled to give us a presentation on a trip to Ireland that they had enjoyed last year. As you may know, an unexpected commitment required that the program be postponed until next year. So we changed the topic and talked 'All About Us'. It was the first time in years that we had discussed all of the activities of the chapter and it turned out to be an interesting meeting. After hearing the reports of the committees and board members, if there is a committee you would like to become more involved with contact either President Mike Bones or myself and we will happily include you. We definitely need someone to take over the functions of Publicity Chair, the sooner the better. It won't be dropped in your lap! Jeannie Shields has been doing this job and she will provide you with back-up if you are willing to do it.

A couple of months ago, Dr. Rhody taught us how to successfully grow rhododendrons from seed. Now is a good time to plant seeds if you haven't already done so. Spring is the natural time for seeds to sprout and I'm hoping that seeds I ordered from the 'Society' seed exchange will arrive soon.

If you didn't give your plants a February fertilizing then do it now. If you did feed them, then a light supplemental feeding will be welcome.

On March 24th at 2:00 p.m. everyone who is interested in a 'show and tell' about selecting and preparing trusses for a show will meet at the home of Gene and Doris Cockeram. There will be several of us there who will show you how to do it. I remember when I first started entering in shows I didn't think I'd ever be able to win against the experienced growers until one year I won the trophy for the Best Species Truss in the show. If I can do it so can you. Meet us at the Cockerams and we'll show exactly how to do it. You can call them at (541) 997-2377 if you need directions.

Our Guest Speaker this month will be Diane Thompson from the Seattle Chapter of the ARS. Her program promises to be full of color for our eyes. Diane has been a landscape designer for 25 years and has just retired. She and her husband Paul, have 1 1/2 acres full of "trees to bulbs and lots of rhodies". Diane has been the President for the Seattle Chapter, show chair, worked on the Western Regional convention up in Bellingham, WA and is the current Membership Chair for that chapter. Diane and Paul have been looking forward to coming to Florence, both in need of a short get a way, and promises that her program will please the Siuslaw Chapter. Diane will be talking about year around color in our gardens. I've heard Diane before and she does a great presentation. You will enjoy it. Of course before the meeting we will have dinner together--this month at I.C.M. Be sure to let Eileen McKenney know if you will be there so she can make our reservations for us. See you at dinner at 5 p.m., or at the meeting at 7 p.m.

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MARCH CALENDAR

Chapter Meeting

Program: Diane Thompson,

"Color Through the Seasons"

When: 3rd Tuesday, Mar 16

Where: Florence Middle School

Cookie bakers:

Sandi Jensen

Sylvia Smith

Betty King

Pre-meeting Dinner:

5 p.m. at I.C.M.

Call Eileen McKenney at

(541) 997-2222, or

<mailto:egmc@oregonfast.net>

Reservations are needed

2004 ARS DUES

Annual ARS dues for 2004

Family \$40

Individual \$35

Associate \$8

Call Dianne Gilmour at (541)
997-2302

WANTED : Do you enjoy writing? We are looking for someone to write press releases about the Chapter events for local publications. Interested? Questions? Call Jeannie Shields 902-8358

Rhododendron Events

March 4, 2004: Gallagher Park work party. Arrive 9-10 am. Bring gloves, rakes, loppers, wheelbarrows, etc.

April 3-4, 2004: Annual Siuslaw Chapter Early Rhody Flower Show, Florence Events Center

April 10, 2004: Eugene Chapter Early Rhody Show

April 24-25, 2004: Southwestern Oregon Chapter Rhody Flower Show, North Bend, OR

May 12-16, 2004: ARS Annual Convention, King of Prussia, PA

May 22-23, 2004: Annual Rhododendron Festival Flower Show, Florence Events Center

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. For information contact Kathy Falconer, <mailto:falconer.dj@clear.net.nz>

Secretary's Report

Present: Jim Smith, Mike & Kathy Bones, Everett Hall, Jeannie Shields, Dave Shepherd, Gene Cockeram, Paul Wilson, Debbie & Pete Peterson

Mike opened by introducing the new chairs. Debbie Peterson is the garden tour chair and Paul Wilson is temporarily doing the newsletter. The minutes were corrected as follows: under old business "Paul Wilson has ordered a variety of name tags...", should read "Paul Wilson has ordered a variety of plant name tags....". Everett made a **MOTION** to accept the minutes as corrected. Jeannie seconded it. **PASSED**. The development fund did not change this month. We need to focus on more exposure for this fund to "pump it up".

Debbie gave an excited and full report about our many choices of gardens available for us to visit. She asked for suggestions of gardens in our area that are visitable. Gardens and times of year to visit were given. We will pursue chartering a bus for our spring tours. A commitment from the members is needed to confirm a bus. Debbie is working on the tour plan.

Paul told us we need to have more people with all the e-mail addresses and member information on their computers for back up in case for some reason the newsletter editor is unable to work. Chris and Ellen Atkin are the new newsletter workers. Paul asked for everyone's articles for this month's letter. Dinner is at the Bridgewater. Reservations are to go to Eileen McKenney. This month's (February) program speaker is unable to come so Plan B is in effect. There will be a variety of speakers talking on the function of our chapter and it's relationship to the National Society. What we do will be explained.

Paul also reported on his search for plant name-tags. He will speak on this at the next meeting. He suggested staying away from the type that stick in the ground for Gallagher Park as they will disappear overnight or rust with time.

Paul is working on the web site for our chapter. He showed a sample of what the home page could contain. The board members are to study this and write their suggestions down to give to Paul at the next general meeting Tuesday. Paul requested we ask for 1 or 2 more people willing to do the web page with him. These people need not have computer skills but should possess a talent for design.

Dave will bring the plant for the drawing. March 4 will be a work party only at Gallagher Park. The planting of the rhododendron, Siuslaw Beauty, will be rescheduled. Permission for any work at the park will be acquired before work begins.

The demonstration on "how to select and prepare a truss for a flower show" will be March 24, 2004, 2 p.m. at Gene Cockeram's. Bring nothing but yourself.

Everett will have the pre-registration forms for room accommodations at the convention in Hawaii next fall for anyone wanting to do this early.

Meeting was adjourned.

Kathy Bones, Secretary



Hi Rhody Lovers,

Everyone must be anxiously awaiting the blooming season. I have received no questions or comments from any of our members. This month I will offer a few reminders to help you have a more successful year with your garden. My wife and I have had the pleasure (??) of weeding many containers this week. In the process we discovered the slugs are back. Lots of slugs are hiding in the weeds. It's time to protect your young rhododendrons and any other plant that slugs love to devour.

There are many varieties of slug control on the market. They all work to some degree. I personally have a favorite. I believe Deadline M.P. gives the best protection. Deadline M.P. is a very dense pellet-like product that the cats, dogs, and birds in our neighborhood have never bothered. The product also has the benefit of remaining effective in the rainy season. It doesn't dissolve after one rainstorm (a very attractive feature in Western Oregon).

It's also a good time for general garden maintenance. If you spend time clearing your garden areas you will remove much of the habitat slugs and other garden pests like for hiding. A clean garden space helps make the area pest-free and looks great too.

Once again, it's not too early to start feeding your plants. Those who live in the sand need to provide nourishment in order to maintain a thriving healthy garden. Small amounts of fertilizer frequently applied work well in our very wet climate.

Take good care of your rhododendrons, groom them, pamper them, and then display them in our Rhododendron Shows April 3 & 4 and May 22 & 23.

Dr. Rhody (aka Jim Smith)

Gallagher Park Beautification

Gallagher's Park at Spruce and Hwy 126 was given to the City of Florence by the Gallagher family for use as a community rhododendron garden. It is refurbished and maintained jointly by the Siuslaw ARS Chapter, the Florence Garden Club and the City of Florence. Gene Cockeram is a Parks Commissioner for the City.

The Garden Club has done an excellent job of caring for the perimeter and the City tries to keep up with watering and new paths. The Siuslaw Chapter is behind, however, in taking care of the rhodies and interior of the park.

In a call for volunteers to spend a few hours to remove dead rhodies, trim back brush, mow, prune, deadhead, weed, rake up and spread mulch and fertilizer, the following members volunteered at the October Chapter meeting.

We need you; call Jenny Velinty at 997-7573 or Gene Cockeram at 997-2377 if you can help. Times and dates can be altered to accommodate your schedules.

Mar. 4: All members & friends work party & lunch

Apr. 1: G. Cockeram, P. & L. Lanning

May 6: B. & M. Horney, J. Velinty

Jun. 3: G. Cockeram, J. Velinty & anyone else

Sept. 2: All members & friends work party & lunch

Butter Horn Rolls from Linda Lanning

INGREDIENTS

1 Pkg. Yeast
 1 Cup, plus 3 Tablespoons warm water
 1/2 Cup Sugar
 1/2 Cup Shortening (Crisco)
 1 Teaspoon Salt
 2 Eggs, Beaten
 4 Cups Sifted Flour
 Softened, or melted butter or margarine

INSTRUCTIONS

Dissolve the yeast in 3 tablespoons of warm water and set aside. Mix the sugar with the salt, and then with the shortening, remaining water, and eggs. Add the yeast. Add the flour incrementally, stirring between each addition. Refrigerate overnight. Next morning, roll out into a 16" circle. Brush on melted butter and cut into 16 wedges. (Hint, just keep cutting in half until you have 16.) Roll each wedge from the large end to the small end. Place on greased baking sheet (put pointed dough end underneath) and let rise until doubled in size. Bake at 350 until brown (~10-12 min.).

Western Regional Conference & Board Meeting Up-date

Here is the latest information up-date on the Western Regional 2004 conference to be held in Hilo, Hawaii. Please note both contacts listed in previous releases, Sherla & Veryl Ann, have new email addresses. Our good friend, Murphy's Law, seems to like to keep us on our toes and paid us an early visit.

Here are our new email addresses.

Sherla Bertelmann: <mailto:vireya@pacificislandnursery.com>

Veryl Ann Grace: <mailto:veryl.grace@verizon.net>

What: The Western Regional Conference & Board Meeting

Where: Hilo Hawaiian Hotel in Hilo, Hawaii

When: Sept. 21 – 26, 2004

Registration Fee: \$40. Late registration fee: \$55

Deadline for registration is August 1, 2004

Pending Tours:

1. Hamakua Coast - \$45 (includes lunch)
All-day tour. (gardens & commercial nursery tour)
2. Volcano National Park Day Tour - \$40 (includes lunch & volcano park admission fee)
All-day tour.
3. Hilo - \$40 (includes lunch)
All day tour (gardens, zoo and vireya garden, & commercial)

The Board Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, Sept. 23rd.

A fellowship dinner hosted by the Hawaii Chapter will be on Friday, Sept. 24th.

Saturday has been set-aside for speakers.

The banquet will be held on Saturday evening, Sept. 25. The cost is not yet set.

The conference is officially over on Sunday at 12 noon.

A post conference cruise is in the planning. Contact for more information is Diane. She can be contacted at <mailto:diane@arsoffice.org>

Among the workshops planned are lei making, Ikebana (Japanese flower arranging) and vireya culture. We, the Hawaii Chapter-ARS members, look forward to welcoming you to our island. There is much we have to share with you.

E komo mai = Come on over!!!

Mike Bones

NEW MEMBERS

Gerald and Brigitte Dixon

Brooklands

Shute

Devon EX13

7QF, ENGLAND

They are our first members from outside the continental USA. We want to welcome them into our Chapter with great enthusiasm. We have told them that they must attend at least three meetings per year. We are glad that they have chosen Siuslaw as their home chapter.

Welcome to the Siuslaw Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society.

Mike Bones