



Macrophyllum

March 2007

Newsletter of the
Siuslaw Chapter
American Rhododendron Society
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UPCOMING Chapter Events

Meeting Topic- Rhodies 202 (cont'd) & Show Preparations

Chapter Meeting – the March meeting is on the 20th at 7PM at the Presbyterian Church on Hwy 101. Dinner this month will be at ICM at 5:00 pm. Contact Eileen McKinney for reservations (541) 997-2222 or egmc@charter.net. Don't forget that if you won a door prize at the last chapter meeting, get your definition for the word you received done and ready for the next meeting. You can use pictures, drawings or whatever helps you get the point across!

Gallagher Park Work Party – is starting up again for spring! Thursday 3/22. Meet at 10:00 a.m.. The park is at the corner of Spruce and Hwy 126. Gene Cockeram- City of Florence Park & Recreation Committee.

Early Rhody Show- Mark April 14 & 15 on your calendar! Volunteer for one of the many jobs that need to be done to make the show the BEST one yet!

Cookie Team- Jan Shepherd, Ann Drake, Helen Baxter, Jo Ann Wilson

2007 ARS Annual Convention- will be held in San Francisco, CA on April 12 – 15, 2007. You can register online at www.ars2007conf.org. Be advised that there are no refunds for registration received after March 1.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT By: Mike Bones

Our February meeting was very interesting, with many members and guests attending. Stephanie Nordin started out the meeting with an update on "SOD". Bill Johnson talked about bark split due to the sudden change of the weather, from warm to cold. Larry Jensen spoke of the need of a "hospital" or a place to plant those little plants until they get large enough to be planted out in the garden. Jim Smith showed us the difference between winter burn and fertilizer burn and talked about fertilizing your rhododendrons. Mike Bones had different types of pruners, explaining that we should use the right tool for the right job when you have to do pruning of your plants.

There was a nice array of different early blooming trusses on display. If you do not have any of the early bloomers in your garden try to add a couple. Rhododendron PJM is one of my favorites. It does well in full sun, takes cold weather, has winter color to the foliage and looks great when planted with yellow daffodils.

The words of the month have been interesting. It is a great learning tool to all of us. Thanks for accepting this program and making the best of it. Gallagher Rhododendron Park looks a lot better after Linda Swarz and Jerry Nordin raked up years of dead leaves and twigs. Gene Cockeram cut a couple of limbs that were head bumpers along the trail. Mike Bones marked the trees that need to be felled to add sunshine into the park so that the rhododendrons will survive.

Happy Gardening!

Editor's Note: With permission from the Siuslaw News, this is a reprint of an article written by Theresa Baer on February 10, 2007. For those who missed it or don't take the local paper, we thought you might like the opportunity to read it.

The Subject WasRhodies

Tuesday night's Planning Commission meeting was scheduled as a work session to continue the monster-size project of updating the city's building and zoning codes, yet drew a fair-sized audience for a singular opportunity to rally in defense of the rhodies. City hall doesn't often see a crowd like that unless the topic is annexation.

As commissioners met totackle landscaping revisions, or actually to create standards where few existed before, Commissioner Clarence Lysdale presented a draft document titles "Native Rhododendron Preservation." A final version of the document, when and if approved, would be incorporated into city ordinance.

The document defines the types of sites that should be protected and steps to curb the loss of the plants. It is based on an informal survey of local landscapers and studies of similar programs like Oregon's wetland preservation regulations and Arizona's codes to protect the saguaro, a cactus.

Addressing the commission as well as the audience, Lysdale said, "The objective is, if we're removing and destroying rhodies, we should make an effort to replace or replant them. Without some motivation other than good intention, we're not going to save them," he said.

Staff at the meeting circulated a "sign-up" sheet, and Lysdale urged people to make it clear to City Hall – by writing letters to the commission, City Council, City Hall or to the editor of the Siuslaw News – whether preserving native rhododendrons is important. He explained that each note, each piece of paper, is a vote of sorts for the rhodies and steers City Council toward enacting ordinances.

"The more energy we can get behind this, the better chance we have of getting City Council and the city behinds us," he said. The sign-up sheet revealed that most people there backed the idea of protecting the city's native plants.

According to Lysdale and the proposed draft document, the codes would apply to anyone who disturbs a "significant population" of the plants, whether for new development, excavation or otherwise. A "significant population" is defined as 20 or more plants growing on any site, or five or more plants in any 1000 square foot plot.

When a structure is being built, whether it's one home or a tract of 20 houses, and whenever vegetation is being cleared at a site where a number of rhodies (*Rhododendron macrophyllum*) grow, the land will be subject to a survey before it can be cleared. The owner or developer will be required to preserve or replant the rhodies, either at the building site or elsewhere.

If the builders are not willing or able to preserve the plants, they might be required to purchase a bond or pay fees so the city can do the replanting. The standard for replacing the plants might be six plants for each 6,000 square feet of developed land. The builder might have options for replacing them, for example, preserve the rhodies where they are, or relocate them to another designated site.

Lysdale and other commissioners pointd out that residents cannot expect the city to carry the burden of preserving the plants, so the commission will be soliciting help and ideas from the public and from the Rhododendron Society in particular.

Commissioner Dave Franzen endorsed the code proposal. "A constant plea to the planning commission is, 'you've got to do something' (to save the rhodies)," he said. "This is a beginning point," Franzen said.

"Do we want to maintain Florence as the City of Rhodies? If the answer is yes, then we have to implement a plant and we have to encourage people to plant rhodies."

In continued discussions, Chairman Wayne Paul pointed out that the rhodies will be a "bone of contention" as plans develop for upgrading Rhododendron Drive. The Planning Commission will be looking at other city's codes for ideas on enforcement and will continue researching the feasibility of moving and replanting native rhodies. It will also seek input and written endorsements from groups representative of Florence citizens, such as the Rotary Club, homeowners' associations and others.

Contact information for City Hall can be found by calling 997-3437 or going online to www.ci.florence.or.us Letters to the editor of the Siuslaw News can be sent via e-mail, siuslawnews@oregonfast.net.

SECRETARY'S REPORT By: Kathy Bones

Your Board is working on the 100th anniversary of the Rhododendron Festival with vigor! Jim Smith has some exciting new ideas for the May show that we will be practicing at the early show, April 14 & 15. Be prepared for some changes. I have it on good authority that the show schedule and key are going to be on our web site soon if not already! Marianne Horney will have some new new books available at both shows. There will be 16 judges for the May show with 2 of them coming from Australia!

Tony Rebello will be arranging a self-guided tour of local gardens available for viewing during Rhody Days. If you're willing to be on this list, see Tony.

Ann Gross, Director of District 4, announced that when the Annual Convention is on the West Coast, there will be no regional convention that year. The regional convention will occur on the years that the Annual Convention is on the East Coast.

Start thinking about next year's programs and what you would like to see. Make your suggestions to a board member or through our suggestion box located on the Hospitality Table.

The Board sure likes the microphone and it's use at the regular meetings. Do you?

Editor's Note: The show key and show schedule have been posted on the chapter website by our Webmaster.

WORDS OF THE MONTH

At the February meeting we completed our discussion of flower shapes and learned:

WIDELY FUNNEL SHAPED Sandy Hennig

Remember that "funnel shaped" turns almost inside out as does the "widely funnel shape". The "widely funnel" also begins to flatten out.

FLAT SAUCER SHAPED Yvonne Moore

The flower is as described and is similar to the "widely funnel shaped" flower. However, the "flat saucer" will not be turning inside out.

TUBULAR Debbie Peterson

The "tubular" flower will be elongated with the end of the petals only slightly open. They often look like firecrackers.

TUBULAR FUNNEL SHAPED Gene Cockeram

This shape will have an elongated throat on the floer but the petal ends will flaire.

ROTATE Sandy Hennig

These flowers have practically no throat and are very open.

At the March meeting we will begin learning words used when describing flowers from:

Conic Jim Smith

Conoid Nancy Fullmer

Cupular Stephanie Nordin

Cylindric Debbie Peterson

Glabrous Barbara Egerman

Dear Dr. Rhody

We have the Lanning place on Collard Lake Rd. (if you have been there) and there are some Rhodies planted along the road to act as a privacy screen. Not sure off hand what the names are and now they have gotten about 8 feet high and not very full in the middle where we need the foliage. After they bloom could we trim them down to 6 feet, the height we need them and would they fill in or just get tall again?

Thank you,
John Skarda

John,
I have been to your property. The Rhodies you have planted as a privacy can be trimmed back.

If you want them to fill in you will actually need to cut them back lower than the 6 feet you desire. After you cut them back – pruning them – they will begin to send out new growth right near to the cuts you make. If I were doing the job I would trim them back to four feet tall.

The pruning should occur in the spring right after the blooming period and new growth will almost immediately begin to come from the leaf nodes right below your cuts. It is possible you may not have flowers the next year but the plants should continue to flower the following year.

Good luck with your project. If you would like, stop by my home, and I will be happy to show you where and how you can trim your plants.

Good luck,
Dr. Rhody

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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.