



Macrophyllum

March 2008

Siuslaw Chapter

American Rhododendron Society

Post Office Box 1701

Florence, OR 97439-0111

WEBSITE: <http://www.siuslawars.org>

Paul Wilson, Webmaster- (541) 902-9780, rhodyfan@mac.com

**This month's newsletter is dedicated to the
memory of member Barbara Egermann**

UPCOMING Chapter Events

Meeting Topic- Preparation for our April Flower Show!

Chapter Meeting – the March meeting is on the 18th at 7PM at the Presbyterian Church on Hwy 101. Dinner this month will be at Aztlan at 5:00 pm. Contact Eileen McKinney for reservations (541) 997-2222 or egmc@charter.net.

March Gallagher Park Work Crew- meet March 20 at the park on the corner of Spruce and Hwy 126 at 10:00 a.m. We work a couple of hours making the rhodies look beautiful. Contact Gene Cockeram for info. 997-2377 or e-mail him at flowerman@g.com

Cookie Team-Jean Gottschalk, Janet Shepherd, Ann Drake, Debbie Talamas

April Gallagher Park Cleanup Day! – *Put April 26 on your calendar to help at the park. More info, page4.*

PRESIDENT'S REPORT By: Mike Bones

March brings the Touch of Spring to the City of Rhododendrons. We have more rhododendrons starting to bloom, adding to the colors of the daffodils and crocus that are in our gardens. We hope you will join us for dinner before the March meeting, as we taste those great margueritas from Aztlan along with some nice Mexican food.

Our Meeting will be on our upcoming Rhody flower shows and some great slides of what we like best, Rhododendrons. We will also be asking YOU, as our Chapter Members, what you would like to hear in the next couple of years' meetings. This will be a good time to ask Rhododendron and Azalea questions. We are looking forward to this meeting as it will prove to be one of our best meetings of the year.

Secretary's Report By: Kathy Bones

It continues to be a challenge as where to have our pre-dinner meals. Our wonderful dinner group has grown to a size that not all restaurants around town can accommodate. Suggestions of where to eat are greatly appreciated! See a Board member.

Bob MacIntyre is working on reactivating a National List of Rhododendron members. He will be asking if anyone wants to be excluded from this list. See Bob if you have any questions or comments.

Remember that the Thursday after the general meeting is always a work party at Gallagher Park. Gene Cockeram says it starts at 10 AM and goes until noon. It's time to get the "clean up from winter" work started there.

There will be a Garden Symposium in Newport on June 28 with garden tours to "Secret Gardens" around Newport on June 29. Watch for more information about this opportunity.



Rhododendron State Park

National Natural Landmark

Are you planning a trip to the East Coast in the near future? Then don't miss this interesting spot in the Adirondack Mountains. Rhododendron State Park in Fitzwilliam, New Hampshire, USA, is a 2,723-acre state park located on and around Little Monadnock Mountain, containing a 16-acre (6.5 ha) stand of native *Rhododendron maximum*, the largest of nineteen similar stands in central and northern New England, the northern limit of their growing range.

The rhododendrons bloom in mid-July and were designated a National Natural Landmark in 1982. The park also includes wild blueberries, cranberries, mountain laurel, heathers, mayflower and wintergreen.

Park activities include hiking and picnicking, but pets are not allowed. A short loop trail navigates the stand of rhododendrons and the 110 mile Metacomet-Monadnock Trail passes over the summit of Little Monadnock Mountain in the center of the park.

For more information check this website on the Internet.

www.nhstateparks.org/state-parks/alphabetical-order/rhododendron-state-park/

Pacific Northwest Fungi

In 2006, research was done on Bud Blight Disease. I found an interesting article titled: *New North American host records for Seifertia Azaleae, cause of Rhododendron bud blight disease* by Dean A. Glawe and Rita L. Hummel. The website has their complete article (in Adobe PDF format).

<http://pnwfungi.org/pdf%20files/manuscripts%20volume%201/pnwf20065.pdf>

According to the article, "Disease symptoms are striking; the flower buds die and become blackened. The fungus has been reported from a number of species of *Rhododendron* in the USA, including *Macrophyllum*. Since you know that I am such a beginner, the symptoms described and photos provided in the article helped me to have a better understanding of what one would look for if they have *Macrophyllum* in their garden.

This article is great for expert rhody growers. For those of us who are beginners, the Oregon State University website also has an excellent description (and photos) of the disease, written in less technical jargon!

The photo to your right is from the Oregon State University website. You can access the website from the link under the photo.



Bud Blight Disease photo

www.oregonstate.edu/Dept/nurspest/Briosia.htm



What Happened This Winter?

We certainly experienced colder and stormier weather this winter. A few of my rhododendrons have shown symptoms and I was so glad I had "*Greer's Guidebook to Available Rhododendrons*" to help figure out what happened to my plants. To the left you can see one of his photos showing what happens from FREEZE BURN. The plant often has a grayish appearance on burned areas and the leaves roll in order to prevent desiccation. This rolling helps to expose less leaf surface to the cold. Really severe freezing causes the leaves to turn totally brown.

Botanical and Horticultural Terms

We're getting close to the first flower show in April and I don't know about you, but I am not so well versed yet in the whole "species, subspecies" lingo! Don't quiz me on this later because my retiree memory only lasts for ten minutes these days...

International Code of Botanical Nomenclature

Species-

A. Three conditions must be met to have a species.

1. Species must differ from their closest neighbors in at least two characteristics.
2. Species must differ in geographical distribution.
3. Species must differ in ecological distribution. (i.e., sun, shade, wind, etc.)

B. Species are usually considered to be a group of organisms (population) that actually (or potentially) interbreed and are reproductively isolated from all other such groups. (an example would be *R. macrophyllum* interbreeds with *R. macrophyllum* and the resulting offspring remains *R. macrophyllum*.)

Subspecies-

1. A subspecies does not fulfill all three of the above requirements, but will differ in one way or another.
2. A taxonomic sub-division of a species, usually defined as being different from the species as a result of growing in a separate geographic area.

Varietas (pl. varietates, abbr. var.)-

1. A sub-division of a species which differs as a group in some minor definable characteristic(s) from the rest of the species.
2. A plant that differs or varies within a geographical and/or ecological unit, generally not determined simply because a group of plants are a different color.

Forma (pl. formae)-

These are plants occurring in the wild as occasional individuals showing some peculiarity, such as a color variance. They may or may not breed true, and many are sterile.

When using the definitions, it must be kept in mind that they are not all precisely and unanimously agreed upon, though the ones given seem to be generally accepted.

This information found in *Greer's Guidebook*, page 9.

RHODY FLOWER & LEAF SHAPE WORD SEARCH PUZZLE

R	F	L	C	A	R	F	U	N	N	E	L
H	L	O	A	L	I	N	E	A	R	O	A
O	A	O	M	R	O	T	A	T	E	V	N
D	T	A	P	F	L	O	W	E	R	A	C
O	B	L	A	N	C	E	O	L	A	T	E
D	V	E	N	T	R	I	C	O	S	E	O
E	T	T	U	B	U	L	A	R	L	C	L
N	O	B	L	O	N	G	L	E	A	F	A
D	V	S	A	U	C	E	R	C	O	A	T
R	V	T	T	R	O	B	O	V	A	T	E
O	E	R	E	L	L	I	P	T	I	C	C
N	O	R	B	I	C	U	L	A	R	E	T

CAMPANULATE
ELLIPTIC
FLAT
FLOWER
FUNNEL
LANCEOLATE
LEAF
LINEAR
OBLANCEOLATE

OBLONG
OBOVATE
ORBICULARE
OVATE
RHODODENDRON
ROTATE
SAUCER
TUBULAR
VENTRICOSE

President: Mike Bones

(541) 997-3082

rhodies@charter.net

Vice President: Marianne Horney

(541) 997-6626

maribob@oregonfast.net

Secretary: Kathy Bones

(541) 997-3082

kathybones@charter.net

Treasurer: Nancy Fullmer

(541) 997-7579

nfullmer05@msn.com

Board Members:

Jim Smith, Past President

(541) 268-6821

roadside6@msn.com

Linda Swarz (10)

(541) 997-5771

gswarz@msn.com

Pete Peterson (08)

(541) 997-1212

peterston1212@msn.com

Bob Horney

(541) 997-6626

maribob@oregonfast.net

Book Chairperson:

Position Open

Hospitality: Paul & Freda Ziegelmaier

(541) 902-0584

semper_fi@oregonfast.net

Garden Tours:

Position Open

Newsletter Editor & Distribution:

Merilee Mulvey

(541) 997-8025

gmmulvey@oregonfast.net

Show Chairman:

Gene Cockeram

(541) 997-2377

flowerman@q.com

Historian: Bill & Judy Johnson

(541) 997-4203

billnjudy4@charter.net

Publicity: Barbara Chase

(541) 997-9720

bjchase@charter.net

Store (clothing): Sandi Hennig

(541)-997-2489

fiendish@charter.net

Gallagher Park Cleanup Day!

April 26th is going to be a major cleanup party at Gallagher Park (corner of Hwy 126 and Spruce St) as the local Garden Club and our Rhody Club gather together to do "spring cleaning." Please join us in this project. More information about the time will be available in the April club newsletter and the April chapter meeting.

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.