



# Macrophyllum

MAY 2009

Newsletter of the  
**Siuslaw Chapter**  
**American Rhododendron Society**  
Post Office Box 1701  
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## UPCOMING Chapter Events

**Meeting Topic- Plant Auction...** Bring your money and your friends, so you can bid on that favorite plant!

**Chapter Meeting** – the meeting will be held May 19 at **6:00 p.m.** at the Presbyterian Church, 3996 Hwy 101 N in Florence.

**Pre-meeting dinner-** Dinner before the May 19th Rhody meeting will be at Aztlan Mexican Restaurant on 101 at 4:00 pm, (note - one hour early). It's one of our most popular restaurants. Don't miss out! Let Rosemary know if you plan to attend dinner. **Contact Rosemary by Friday, May 15th by 12:00 noon** for reservations (541) 997-6167 or [tonyrosemery@charter.net](mailto:tonyrosemery@charter.net)

**Gallagher Park Work Party** – Wednesday May 20, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. The park is at the corner of Spruce and Hwy 126. Gene Cockeram- City Park Commissioner. [flowerman@g.com](mailto:flowerman@g.com)

**Cookie Team-** Shirley Wilson, Linda Swarz, Dorrie Enochs, Jenny Velinty

**May Flower Show-** The Florence Rhododendron Festival Flower Show will be held during the festival weekend, May 16 & 17, 2009. Please volunteer to help. There are lots of small jobs throughout the weekend that only take up a couple of hours of your time and help the chapter immeasurably.

Setup- Thursday May 14 pick up stuff from storage unit at 3:30pm and deliver to FEC for setup from 4-6pm. Member entries can be brought in on May 14 from 6-8pm. *Please visit the chapter website (link above) for rules, show times, etc.*

**Garden Trip-** a great trip is planned for **Tuesday, May 5.** Please see article on page 4 of this issue.

**Needed-** we still need those Frappachino bottles and plastic crates for storing them. Your donations are appreciated.

**Siuslaw ARS 2009 Early Flower Show**  
**Congratulations, Bob MacIntyre won the**  
**“Best In Show” award for his Maddenii hybrid**



Two  
Proud  
Winners  
At the  
Show!



**Siuslaw ARS 2009 Early Flower Show**  
**Congratulations, Mike Bones won the annual “Sweepstakes” award.**  
**Most cumulative points earned for all ribbon winning entries by a**  
**single person.**

## ROAD TRIP!!!

May 10, 2009 *Mother's Day Weekend*

This is the perfect weekend to take your lovely wife or significant other "mother" on a nice trip down the coast of Oregon to visit the North Bend/Coos Bay coastal area.

### North Bend Area-

Our sister chapter, Southwestern Oregon, resides in this beautiful coastal city. North Bend juts out into Coos Bay and is a fabulous place to observe dunes and shore birds and beautiful ocean beaches... almost as lovely as our own Florence coast! You can stop for a leisurely brunch and then visit the Coos Historical & Maritime Museum. Click on this link [www.oregonmuseums.org](http://www.oregonmuseums.org) then choose Oregon Coast and look for North Bend listing for the museum. You will see information about the museum.

Next stop is....

### A Coos Bay Area Treat-

Shore Acres Rhododendron Mother's Day display. The state park will be in full bloom, which is breathtaking. For more information contact Shore Acres State Park, Cape Arago Highway. Call 541-756-5401 or [www.shoreacres.net](http://www.shoreacres.net)

Allow your party several hours to wander through the entire park to see the rhododendrons. There is also a wonderful gift shop that stocks many interesting books and other interesting gifts for you and your loved ones.



### A Historical Perspective of the Rhododendron...

Many of the chapter members receive the ARS (quarterly) Journal. It's nice to go online and re-read some very special articles. I was searching for another article today and ran across this article below, written by E. Irving and R. Hebda from Victoria, Canada about the **Origin and Distribution of Rhododendrons** around our planet Earth. It is a fascinating historical perspective on the rise of our beloved Rhododendron. We often forget how old this species of plant really is and the authors below remind us that Rhodies have been around much longer than we thought!

### Concerning the Origin and Distribution of Rhododendrons

E. Irving and R. Hebda  
Victoria, Canada

#### Abstract

There are two important features of the distribution of species of the genus Rhododendron that require explanation. First, the overwhelming majority of them occur either on the slopes of the very deep valleys that border the eastern Himalayas and southeastern Tibet, or in the mountain ranges that form the backbones of the archipelago stretching between mainland Asia and Australia - the islands of Java, Sumatra, Borneo, New Guinea, and the Philippines. The second feature is that the remaining species, although far fewer in number, are spread much more widely over the northern hemisphere, occurring in pockets that, to a considerable degree, are isolated from one another - Japan, northwestern North America, the Appalachian, and Caucasus Mountains.

We propose that, during their early history, rhododendrons were much more evenly spread than they are now, and that their present discontinuous distribution was caused by the encroachment, in comparatively recent times, of conditions hostile to their existence, namely the extensions of glacial ice and of modern grassland and deserts. We also argue that the present remarkable concentration of species in southeastern Asia has arisen because it is there that habitats were developed in which rhododendrons found not only shelter from climatic vicissitudes, but in which they could flourish and speciate; apparently they were able to do this at a time when rhododendrons elsewhere were being driven from much of their former range. We hope to show how the history of this horticulturally outstanding genus might have been shaped by global and regional geological events.

To continue reading this article in the ARS quarterly journal, visit <http://www.rhododendron.org/v47n3p139.htm>

## PLANTS NEEDED FOR O. HOWARD HINSDALE GARDEN

Progress is being made on restoration of the O. Howard Hinsdale Garden near Reedsport. If you have read the ARS Journal articles about the garden, you are aware that there used to be quite a plant collection at the garden. Amazingly, despite decades of neglect, many have survived. The garden was awarded a grant to replace the missing rhododendrons, both species and hybrids. Some money is available to purchase plants. Donations, of course, would be welcome. Cuttings would also be appreciated. If you have any of the plants listed below that you would like to sell or donate, please contact Gordon Wylie at (541) 895-2864 or [lgwone@gmail.com](mailto:lgwone@gmail.com).

**Don't miss the tour of Hinsdale Garden on May 23<sup>rd</sup> from 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. See attached document of May trips for directions to the garden.**

### HYBRIDS:

Canary, Carita Golden Dream, Countess of Athlone, Day Dream-Biscuit Form, Erebus, Fabia Roman Pottery, Fabia Tower Court, Glory of Littleworth, Glowing Embers, Gold Braid, Golden West, Goldsworth Yellow, Jade, Karkov, King of Shrubs, Lady Chamberlain, Lady Rosebery, Mohamet, Mrs. W.C. Slocock, Naomi A.M., Naomi Early Dawn, Naomi Glow, Naomi Hope, Naomi Nereid (& any others of the Naomi grex), Rosy Morn and Royal Flush.

### SPECIES:

Augustinii Barto Blue, davidsonianum Exbury (Ruth Lyons & Serenade), eximium, falconeri, fictolacteam, houlstonii, hippophaeoides, lutescens, racemosum, sinogrande, sutchuenense, thomsonii, williamsianum, edgeworthii (red form from KW collection), intricatum, lacteam & wardii.

## Early Show Trophy Donors THANK YOU!

We send a big **thank you** to the following members and businesses who graciously donated funds to support extra trophies for the early flower show. We had some very happy winners. Several thank you cards from those winners have been received already at the chapter mailbox. Total donated was \$246.00.

Jim & Sylvia Smith  
Bill & Sandi Hennig  
Western Lane Community Foundation  
Pete & Candy Baumer  
Bob & Linda Bare  
Bill & Phyllis Dickson  
Bill & Judy Johnson  
Merilee Mulvey  
Nancy Fullmer

Thanks in advance to those members who are donating \$ to the May flower show for trophies.

### The Siuslaw News

In case you missed the great article in the Siuslaw News recently about our early flower show, you can read it online. Here is the link:

[http://www.thesiuslawnews.com/V2\\_news\\_articles.php?heading=0&page=72&story\\_id=2063](http://www.thesiuslawnews.com/V2_news_articles.php?heading=0&page=72&story_id=2063)

## SECRETARY'S REPORT by: Kathy Bones

The Board met on April 14, 2009 to do the business of our Chapter. It was reported that the early show was a huge success! Everyone is thanked for their hard work! Our show went smoothly due to the people there, working together to put on the best flower show anywhere! If you missed seeing the show or being involved, put the third weekend of May on your calendar for the late show. It will be as good if not better than the early show....if possible!

There will be a post wrap-up meeting for the flower shows on May 26, 2009, at 6:00 PM at Mike & Kathy Bones home. Come with ideas on how to improve our flower shows! (I'm not sure that is possible but we seem to get better and better every year anyway!)

Have Gene Cockeram show you his t-shirt with a picture of himself and the Rhododendron Henry McKenney being transported across the bridge to Gallagher's Park. It was as big as a tree and quite an impressive sight.

Think about what Wednesday you might be available in the coming year to volunteer for the work party at Gallagher's Park. There will be a sign-up sheet at the general meetings to indicate when you can be there.

The Board is working on a Policies Paper listing all the working policies we have developed. This paper will be ready for membership to view by September.

I think spring is here! Hurrah!!

## The Month of May.... Macgregoriae

I present to you a stunning **Vireya**! This is the yellow/orange flower form. Other colors are on the ARS website listed below. Apologies for the hazy photo... but you get the idea of this beauty anyway. How coincidental that our speaker from the Species Foundation had this Vireya in his program! Luckily, his photo was much clearer than this one.

Here are the particulars:

Section Euvireya: Subsection Euvireya

Height - to 15m - terrestrial

Leaves - elliptic - 14 x 5cm

Flowers - yellow, orange, pink or red - shortly tubular - 2.5cm - up to 15 per umbel

Location - Indonesia & PapuaNew Guinea: widespread - 120-3000m

Epithet - after Lady Macgregor, whose husband was Lieutenant Governor of Papua, a dedicated explorer and plant collector.

The clone 'Paddy Woods' is named after the collector, botanist and horticulturalist who worked at the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh and went on several collecting expeditions to SE Asia.

The clone 'Tom Grieve' is named for the plantsman who maintained the Vireya Collection at the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh for a number of years and was the first person to persuade *Rhododendron saxifragoides* to flower in cultivation.

For more information from the American Rhododendron Society's website; visit <http://www.vireya.net/gallery-spM.htm>



Excerpts from an article on the ARS website....

### A New Classification of the *Vireya* Group

A new classification of the *Vireya* group has been presented by Lyn Craven and colleagues in the botanical journal [Blumea](#), published by the National Herbarium of the Netherlands.

To date, classification of the group has been largely based on the work of Dr. Hermann Sleumer (published in '*Flora Malesiana*' ser.1, vol.6, pt.4, 1966 and subsequently reprinted as '*An Account of Rhododendron in Malesia*') and more recently the revision by Dr George Argent of the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh ('*Rhododendrons of Subgenus Vireya*', RHS 2006).

The system of classification of both Sleumer and Argent is based on the morphological study of the group, i.e. physical examination of plant material leading to the establishment of groups and sub-groups displaying similar botanical characteristics (e.g. scale types, bracts, etc). Such a system of classification is essentially artificial in concept, a fact acknowledged by both authors, however serves its purpose remarkably well in bringing order to such a large group.

To finish this interesting article use this link: <http://www.vireya.net/news.htm>

The most beautiful flower carpets in the world...  
Brussels' Flower Carpet Festival. See it online:  
<http://www.flowercarpet.be/site/main.php?lg=en>

## MAY GARDEN TOUR PLANNED

Judy Johnson and Debbie Drefchinski (our wild and crazy tour guides) have a great trip planned for May. Here is what they have to say about the trip...

"Arrangements have been made with Pat at Thompson's for our visit on **Tuesday, May 5**. He is expecting us sometime after 10 AM. Debbie and I would like members to meet us at the Florence *True Value* Store parking lot on the corner of Hwy 126 and Quince Street at 9 AM and we will caravan up to Thompson's Nursery in Waldport. We will also visit Gerdeman's Garden the same day. Jerry and Kathleen Sand are looking forward to our visit as their busy season begins!

There should be a lot of nice plants blooming, and I'm sure it will be a fun trip. We plan to have lunch together. The Salty Dawg Grill has been suggested for lunch. It is located at 375 Port St., Waldport, OR 97394. 541-563-2555. Other suggestions for lunch are welcome depending on how big our group becomes."

If you are interested in joining the group for this trip, just show up at the designated meeting spot and time. **The group will be leaving Florence at 9:15 a.m. sharp.** You can get more information about the trip and/or tentatively arrange to ride with someone else in the group. Debbie's phone number is 997-8376. Judy's phone number is 997-4203 or you can email her at [billnjudy4@charter.net](mailto:billnjudy4@charter.net)

## Record Breaking Rhodies! Right Here in Florence, Oregon!

I had the most interesting conversation with local ARS chapter members Ron Sjogren and Jeff & Wendy Grant at the early flower show this year. One of Ron's many hobbies is finding "the largest trees" and he is diligent about it! While touring the Grant's spacious Florence garden last year, he noticed a huge trunked Rhododendron (several in fact). Though really a shrub, this Rhododendron is the size of a tree and deserves recognition in the National Registry of Big Trees. Jeff helped Ron measure and document the behemoth for formal registration with the Oregon state Big Tree Registry and then they followed up with the American Forests 2008 National Register of Big Trees.

According to another article, "This arduous process for formal recognition took over a year to complete after initial contact with the state organization's representative who had to make an on-site inspection in final verification of the procedures followed and size of the tree."

Jeff and Wendy will gladly show the champ by appointment only since it is at their private residence. You may contact them at 541-997-1407.

The newspaper articles and a great picture of Jeff standing by the tree will be on display at the May Rhododendron Festival Flower Show at the FEC. Drop by the flower show Hospitality Center tables to see the display.

Thank you, Wendy and Jeff, for sharing this information with us.

Regards, Merilee/Editor

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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:

- 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.