



Macrophyllum

May 2008 Newsletter

Newsletter of the
Siuslaw Chapter
American Rhododendron Society
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UPCOMING Chapter Events

Meeting Topic- Pruning and Deadheading

Chapter Meeting – the May meeting is on the 20th at 7p.m. at the Presbyterian Church on Hwy 101. Dinner this month will be at Aztlan at 5:00 p.m. Contact Eileen McKenney for reservations (541) 997-2222 or egmc@charter.net.

Cookie Team- Jerry Nordin, Linda Swarz, Sylvia Smith, Sandi Jenson

Gallagher Park Work Party – Thursday May 22nd from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. The park is at the corner of Spruce and Hwy 126. Gene Cockeram- City of Florence Park & Recreation Committee.

flowerman@q.com

April Gallagher Park “Cleanup Day” – we need your help as we join the Florence Garden Club members on **Saturday, April 26** to clean up the park. Both clubs take responsibility to keep the park clean and groomed. Put this date on your calendar! We need your help...

May Rhododendron Festival- May 17-18 at the FEC. See page 4 of this issue to sign up to help!

OSU Extension Service Pruning Rhodies- demonstration Wednesday **May 7** from 9-11:30 a.m. at the Florence Events Center. No charge!

Chapter Picnics – June 8 at Honeyman State Park. Potluck signup at May meeting. August picnic will be on August 10 at the same spot. Watch for article about picnics in June 2008 newsletter.

Southwestern Chapter Flower Show-For those of you who didn't get a chance to show your prize Rhodies and azaleas in our April show, here's another opportunity. This weekend, April 19th & 20th, the Southwestern Chapter is having their Rhody show at Pony Village in North Bend/Coos Bay. Trusses and sprays will be accepted for the show Saturday between 7 and 9 a.m. The show will be in a storefront across the hall from Sears. Show hours...Sat approx 11:30 a.m. to 5 p., Sun Noon to 4p.m.

The Southwestern Chapter has the same show rules and regulations as our shows. For more information, call Bob McIntyre...541-347-7269. See our chapter show rules on separate attachment.

A Happy Winner of a Red Ribbon!

I would like to introduce Alyssa Tomsik. She was a red ribbon winner at the April Early Flower Show put on by the Siuslaw Rhododendron Club. One of the most exciting aspects of the flower shows is seeing new young participants!

Alyssa is holding her entry, **Gill's Crimson**. This Rhododendron is *griffithianum* hybrid. Height to 6 feet. This plant is dense, upright and has a sturdy habit, with medium to large light green leaves. It is slow to flower, but once it reaches flowering age it rewards us with blooms that last a long time. Flowers are brightest blood red, held in rounded tight trusses. (Greer's Guidebook info.)

Congratulations, Alyssa, from the Siuslaw Rhododendron Club!



Early Flower Show Highlights April 2008



Cream Crest – one of the wonderful plants that were for sale at the Early Flower Show. I can hardly wait to plant it in my yard and see it bloom!

Hardiness Zone: 7a (+5F. to +10F.)

Bloom Time: Middle

Height in 10 years: 3 - ft.

Sun/Shade: Does well in full sun.

Description: YELLOW flowers on this are an incredible sight. Excellent substance to flowers.

Mid-season blooming. It is perfect for a bright sunny location with full sun and drought tolerant.

BUSHY dwarf has small and VERY GLOSSY foliage. Very Deep green glossy leaves.

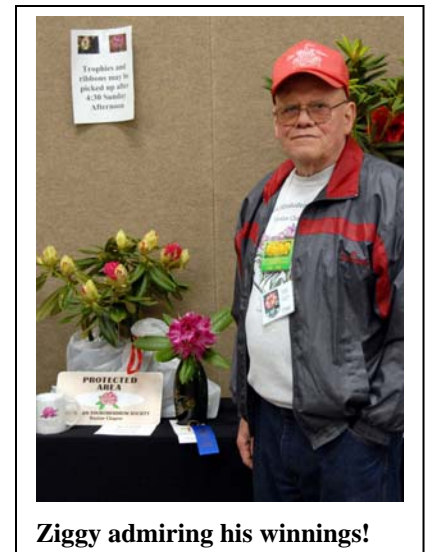


A Few Good Men... Show Judges

Thanks, guys!



Gene Cockeram, 1st place winner



Ziggy admiring his winnings!

Winners' Circle

Number of entries this season- 203

Ribbons awarded- 149

53 first place, 64 second place, and 32 third place

1st Place Gene Cockeram

2nd Place Mike Bones

3rd Place Dr. Gerdemann

Congratulations to all of the winners!

Thanks to all of the members who worked so hard to put on this early show for 2008. See you again in May!

Violet Green Swallow

Editor's Spot

One of the most exciting seasons of the year in my garden is spring. In mid-April the Violet Green Swallows reappear and put on a wonderful mating ritual display around my house. The first year we moved to Florence, my husband and I put up a nesting box for the swallows. It hangs just outside the sliding door of our bedroom in a partly shaded corner under the roof's eave.

As time draws near for the nesting to begin, the Swallows must fend off invasive House Sparrows that are always looking for prime nesting spots. So, I bite my nails every day in the hopes that the Sparrows don't out-manuever the Swallows. Fortunately, that hasn't happened yet!

These soaring acrobats of the sky spend their days in groups of 6-8 flying around my neighborhood, consuming thousands of insects and putting on beautiful aerial displays of their flying acrobatics. When the nesting begins, the female is very particular about how the nesting material should be set inside the box and many times throws pieces out the hole if they don't pass inspection! *Watch out below!* This seems to take forever, but before we know it she is sitting on the nest working on her egg laying. Her spouse and sometimes others of the group bring her food when she is incubating the eggs. The group is usually comprised of non-nesting bachelors and other family members possibly from the previous year's fledging.



Alpha Baby Waiting To Fledge!

(Last year there was the unfortunate death of the swallow father, but the mother found a new mate and continued the nesting process.)

After the eggs hatch the parents work continuously, collecting insects, as they soar. Housekeeping duties include removing little fecal sacs from the nest box. The parents trade off babysitting duty in order to feed themselves. As the chicks grow larger they start to show at the nest hole and by the time they are almost ready to fledge they are fighting for the prime spot at the center of the nest hole. At that point their cheeping is quite vocal and many mornings we are awakened at "oh dark thirty" by the relentless cries for FOOD from the nest!

All too soon, the chicks have jumped out and joined their parents and are on their way to wherever they go! It all happens so quickly when they fledge... one moment they are in the nest and the next moment they are gone.

Until next year...

To The Show Committee:

I had SO much fun working at the Rhody Show in April. I can't wait for the May show!! I really want to be more involved at the next show. Who do I contact about helping out?

Signed, "Can't Wait"

Dear *Can't Wait*:

There are many areas where you can help out at the May show. We need a lot more helpers to make the May show a success as it is much bigger than the April show. Depending on where you'd like to volunteer, these are the people to contact.

Hospitality	Freda Ziegelmaier	902-0584	semper_fi@oregonfast.net
Plant Sale	Dave and Jan Shepherd	997-2283	drshepherd@oregonfast.net
Book Sale	Ron Sjogren	997-1957	no e-mail address
Clerks/Recorders	JoAnn Wilson	902-9780	rhodyfan@mac.com

Set up and take down, flower staggers (people who place the floral entries in the show racks), displays

Show chair	Gene Cockeram	992-2377	flowerman@g.com
Show coordinators	Linda Swarz	997-5771	gswarz@msn.com
	Cheryl Prchal	902-7637	rhodyholic@msn.com

No experience is necessary for any of these jobs...we have lots of people who will be happy to teach you what you need to know.
Cheryl Prchal

I have a neighbor who finds the most interesting websites. This website he found is one you shouldn't miss. It is the compilation of photos of the 2007 Victoria Rhody Show. The photos are crisp, clear and labeled. What a wonderful selection of plant blooms to aid us in identification and pure enjoyment of the beauty of Rhodies!

<http://www.victoriarhodo.ca/Pictures/victoria-show-2007/thumbs.html>

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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.