



# Macrophyllum

May 2004

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

## Secretary's Report

### April 13, 2004 Board Meeting:

The board welcomed Paul (Ziggy) Ziegelmaier to the board for his first meeting.

Jim Smith reported that there were 450 trusses at the early show with many ribbons being won. As far as he can tell, everyone that entered won a ribbon. The show was a great success and work for the May show has already begun. Look for sign-up sheets to help at the May show at the next meeting.

The March work party for Gallagher Park got distracted to the corner of Highway 101 and 126 to help. That corner is looking soooooo good! Be sure to take a good look at the project next time you pass that way. A new updated roster of members and associate members to our chapter will be coming. Mike Bones has appointed himself as membership chairman and has already started a project to create a phone book of chapter members with pictures to help everyone get to know each other better.

Jeannie Shields will be working on a "phone tree" to aid in getting information out to our members when needed. The City of Rhododendrons Contest is gearing up again. This year the area included in the contest is the southwest sector. This includes private homes from Highway 101 west to the Siuslaw River within the city limits and north to 15<sup>th</sup> street. Nominations may be made to any board member. So when you're out and about and see a particularly nice front yard, let a board member know! May 11 will be the judging day. Jeannie introduced "Indiana Jones" Cockeram, (better known as Gene), to the board. The Depot Bay Beacon is writing an article on this "treasure hunter" of the Oregon Coast as he hunts for the best macrophyllum. Don't miss the article.

Want a good rhody identification book? See Marianne Horney and ask for the new Greer Book. Even Mike uses Kathy's Greer Book.

Dave Shepherd will have t-shirts and sweatshirts available soon in a variety of sizes. If you want to make sure you have one, call him and place an order.

Don't forget that the Development Fund is a great way to honor or remember a loved one. Find a board member for more information.

See you at the show during Rhody Days, May 22 and 23!

**Kathy Bones, Secretary**

## Annual Plant Auction

**Please bring plants** (not necessarily rhododendrons) to our May meeting that you are willing to part with so that they may be auctioned to your fellow Siuslaw ARS members. This plant auction is how we obtain most of our operating funds for the coming year. Don't forget your checkbooks, this is an opportunity to purchase something really special.

**President:** Mike Bones  
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<mailto:rhodies@harborside.com>  
**Vice President:** Everett Hall  
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**Secretary:** Kathy Bones  
(541) 997-3082  
<mailto:rhodies@harborside.com>

**Treasurer:** Dianne Gilmour  
(541) 997-2302  
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**Board Members:**  
Jim Smith, Past President, Show Chair  
(541) 268-6821  
<mailto:roadside6@msn.com>  
Jeannie Shields (04), Publicity  
(541) 902-8358  
Dave Shepherd (05), Chapter Shirts  
(541) 997-2283  
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Paul Ziegelmaier (06)  
(541) 902-0584  
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**Book Chairperson:**  
Marianne Horney  
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Paul & Freda Ziegelmaier  
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**Newsletter:**  
Ellen & Chris Atkin  
(541) 997-3247  
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## MAY CALENDAR

### Chapter Meeting

*Program:* Annual plant auction  
*When:* 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday, May 18

*Where:* Florence Middle School

*Cookie bakers:*

Betty McCall  
Ann Drake  
Wendy Grant

*Pre-meeting Dinner:*  
5 p.m. at Betty's in the Naco  
West Campground on South  
Jetty Road.

Choice of chicken breast or  
beef; w/potato, veg, salad and  
desert all for \$10, including tip.

Call Eileen McKenney at  
(541) 997-2222, or  
<mailto:egmc@oregonfast.net>

**Reservations are needed**

### Rhododendron Show

*Set-up:* Thurs, May 20, 3:30 pm  
*Show:* Sat. & Sun., May 22- 23  
*Entries:* 7 to 9 am, Saturday  
*Display:* Saturday after judging  
Until 5 pm & Sunday 1 - 5 pm  
Florence Event Center

## Rhododendron Events

**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 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Conference, Gore, Southland, New Zealand. For information contact Kathy Falconer, <mailto:falconer.dj@clear.net.nz>

## Plant of the Month

The featured plant of the month is named "Mate." It was hybridized by Roy Thompson, fifteen years ago, and later named and dedicated to his good friend Rudy Mate. Rudy and his wife Barbara have been well known for their involvement in the Seattle chapter of ARS, the RSF, and the Florence chapter of ARS. I have learned from good friends of the Mates, fellow Charter Members Gwen and Harvey Bell and Honore and Roy Hocason, about their extensive interest and involvement. Along with Honore and Roy, Rudy and Barbara were very active volunteers for the Rhododendron Species Foundation in Federal Way, Washington. Barbara was office bookkeeper, volunteer co-coordinator, and started the gift shop and library.

I had the privilege of growing up next door to the family of Barbara, Rudy and their son, Dr. Bruce Mate, in Wheaton, Illinois.

The "Mate" rhododendron is a tribute to a hard-working family, passionate in their pursuit of knowledge, beauty and in their love of people. Honore and I both have a "Mate" rhododendron blooming in our yards. It has special significance, as it holds memories of a very dear friend, Rudy Mate.

The "Mate" is (Nancy Evans x Tweedy Bird Sister). It has a sister plant known as "Wings of Gold". How appropriate, as I am sure that this must be the color of Rudy's wings.

**Ellen Atkin**



## Dear Dr. Rhody,

I attended the meeting where you described how to grow seedlings. Like you, I have become addicted to raising Rhododendron seedlings. Unfortunately I seem to have a problem with some of the seedlings. There appears to be rust on many of the plants. What can I do to eliminate the rust and how can I prevent another outbreak?? Bob

Dear Bob,

I am glad to see others suffer from a desire to grow Rhododendron seedlings. I am sorry to hear about your rust problems. I have never had a problem with rust. I believe my good luck is caused by the fact that one of my best friends grows Orchids. He warned me many years ago to make sure I have moving air in my seed room at all times. Ventilation fans and wall fans are on 24 hours a day. It seems to help. There are many fungicides that are designed to help cure rust. Daconil and Captan are available to the general public and should help cure your rust problem. Good luck.

To the rest of our chapter members, remember that Rhododendron Days are rapidly approaching. Our flower show is scheduled as usual on Saturday and Sunday. I look forward to working with our group once again. This year we need **ALL** of you to bring in as many entries as possible.

Our show is late this year and our bloom has generally been early. Please help provide a good selection for viewing.

**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.

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.

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

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



### Garden Tour Schedule

**Wednesday, May 19**

We have scheduled tours for us in Eugene-Hendricks Park Rhododendron garden and Greer Gardens.

We will meet in the Wal-Mart parking lot just west of the 'Quik Mart' at 9:30 a.m. The Wal-Mart is on Highway 126 just East of the intersection of Belt Line Road. We will caravan up to Hendrick's Park, which is one of the finest public rhododendron gardens in the Northwest. Michael Robert who was the Head Gardener in the garden for many years prior to his recent retirement will conduct this tour.

Following that we plan to go to lunch and then on to Greer Gardens. Greer Gardens is known through out the Rhododendron world and this tour will be conducted by Harold Greer. You won't want to miss this opportunity to have a conducted tour of these gardens.

**Debbie Peterson**



### Shirts For Sale

Sweat shirts with Florence Logo: \$14.00, XL. T-Shirts--L and XL \$7.00, 2X,\$9.00, 3X \$10.00  
Call Dave Shepherd 997-2283.

They will also be available at the meeting.

### Rhody Fertilizer

Kathy Bones has rhody fertilizer available to Siuslaw ARS members at \$13 per 40 lb bag. If interested, call Kathy to arrange a pick-up.

The above pictures were taken at Dr. Devern and Joyce Pinnock's garden during the April 17 garden tour.

## From the VP

Here in the Central Oregon Coast area our rhododendrons begin to come into bloom in late December and each succeeding month has even more plants bringing welcome color to our gardens. Our peak blooming season is during this month and everywhere you look you see beautiful rhododendron plants in full bloom. What a glorious time of the year to be a rhododendron enthusiast! It may be my imagination but it seems to me the rhododendrons have more intense color this year than usual.

After the plants finish blooming, it is time to remove the old trusses (deadheading) and, if they need to be pruned, this is the time to do that as well. Remember- when you prune a rhododendron you should cut just above a dormant bud. These are little raised bumps on the stem that you can feel when you run your fingers along it.

We were all saddened last month by the loss of Tom Drake. Tom and Ann were among the founding members of the Southwest Oregon chapter and have been very active in our chapter as well. Tom was a wonderful warm and generous man and we will miss him a great deal. Donations in his memory can be made to our Development Fund.

Before our last chapter meeting we had 41 members and guests meet for dinner? These 'before meeting' dinners are really fun and provide us a great opportunity to visit with other chapter members. Our speaker, Steve Hootman, from the Rhododendron Species Foundation and Botanical garden gave us a wonderful slide presentation of his last plant hunting expedition- this time to N.E India, an area where few (if any) western plant hunters have gone before. Can you imagine how miserable it must be to go to places like that? The constant heavy rain, leeches, poisonous snakes, mud slides, crazy drivers, questionable food and varmints like rats climbing on you while you try to sleep would certainly cause me to wonder if the chance of finding a new species was really worth the effort. Fortunately for the rest of us, plant hunters like Steve and Kenneth and Peter Cox are willing to endure those conditions in hope of finding new and exciting plants, or better forms of plants already in cultivation, for our gardens. Everybody has their heroes\_ and these guys are mine.

*R. macrophyllum* is in bloom again and the Macrophyllum Committee is again searching diligently for the best specimens of *R. macrophyllum*- early bloomers- late bloomers- whites- picotees- reds- dark pinks. Plants with nice full trusses composed of at least 20 flowers. Dwarfs? You can help this project by keeping a close watch for these plants. Commercial and residential development is taking place at a rapid rate here in the central coast region and the habitat of these native plants is being destroyed daily. It is critical we try to preserve as many of the superior forms of this plant as we can. When you find a noteworthy plant call Gene Cockeram (997-2377) or me (997-3605) so we can take a picture of it note it's location, mark it with a ribbon and try to propagate it. So far this season we have found two superiors dark colored early blooming (First week in April) plants with nicely filled trusses. By this fall we should be able to begin putting some of these superior specimens that we have already propagated into Gallagher Park. Gene gave Steve Hootman a white blooming plant and some seeds collected from the 'Bandon' plants that we have been studying for the past three years so they can be placed in the Species Foundation garden.

Now it's time to begin another phase of the project. We need to identify the exact range where our coastal *R. macrophyllum* grows. Going north is probably not a problem, as we know it grows in the coastal area of British Columbia. How far north we don't know but one of the Canadian chapters can determine that. We don't know how far east they are found, or northeast, or southeast, or south. West also doesn't seem to be a problem. So keep on looking and reporting. This is probably the most important project in which this chapter is involved. If we don't do it, it won't get done. Our next meeting is on May 18<sup>th</sup>, the 24<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the eruption of Mount St. Helens.

Our meeting will likely not be spewing lava, smoke and ash but it will be erupting with laughter occasionally as we all enjoy our annual plant auction. This plant auction is how we obtain most of our operating funds for the coming year. So donate whatever plants, not necessarily rhododendrons, that you can spare and be prepared to join in the fun as our President Mike Bones and Past-President Jim Smith conduct one of our most enjoyable evenings of the season. Don't forget your checkbooks, this is an opportunity to purchase something really special.

On the 20<sup>th</sup>, Thursday, we will set up for the 'BIG' show in the Events Center. The show opens on Saturday the 23<sup>rd</sup>. Bring your trusses for entry between 7:00a.m. and 9:00a.m. The earlier the better and please bring plenty. We will take the show down and put everything away on Sunday, the 23<sup>rd</sup> starting at 5:00p.m. Afterwards we usually get together for dinner and what do we talk about. Guess.

I'm not going to identify and talk about a plant of the in this issue - there are so many lovely plants in bloom this month we are already almost over-whelmed by their beauty. But as you go on the tours or see trusses on display, and you see a species you would like to know more about, just let me know and I will feature it in a future issue. See you at the 'before meeting' dinner. If I'm late save me a place at the table.

**Everett Hall, VP**