

# Macrophyllum

**NOVEMBER 2011**

Siuslaw Chapter

American Rhododendron Society

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## UPCOMING Chapter Events

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**Meeting topic-** Don Wallace, owner and operator of Singing Tree Nursery in McKinleyville, CA. will be speaking and showing a picture presentation on hybridizing . He will also bring some of his newly hybridized plants with him for us to auction after the presentation.

**Board Meeting-** On Tuesday November 8th ,there will be a board meeting at Jim and Sylvia Smiths home in Mapelton at 6:30 pm.

**Chapter Meeting-**On Tuesday November 15<sup>th</sup> at the Presbyterian Church of the Siuslaw, 3996 Highway 101, Florence, at 7 pm. Refreshments at 6.30 pm.

**This month's dinner** will be at the Bridgewater Restaurant. Don't miss out! Dinner is at 5:00 before our meeting on November 15th. Call or email Rosemary by November 11th at 541-997-6167 or [tonyroosemary@charter.net](mailto:tonyroosemary@charter.net) if you plan to attend dinner .

**Gallagher Park Work Party-** Wednesday, November 16<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 until 12:00 noon. The park is at the corner of Spruce and Hwy. 126. Gene Cockeram, City Park Commissioner. [flowerman@q.com](mailto:flowerman@q.com) . Remember helping Gene at the park gets you 6 free tickets for the raffle!

**Cookie Team** - Sandi Hennig, Connie Rosenbaum, Darlene Christean, Carol Phillips

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### **Presidents Message**

By Larry Jensen

Sunday morning and it's nice outside. Daisy and I walked up into the logging site above our house this morning. They are thin logging to the northwest of us. This always changes the wildlife patterns. I think a bear has been living where they are logging now, so he will be moving on. The coyotes have spent the last few months around our place and the rodents seem to have been depleted. This year we have had mikes chipmunks here! We live trapped some of them and relocated them into the clear-cut.

I appreciate the response from Jeannie Shields. The moles I mentioned seem to have struck a nerve. The article she wrote shows ways to try to combat these pests.

There is still time to plant before the bad weather arrives. I hate to leave plants in pots during the cold weather. Two years ago I had 60 occidentale in pots. Only 6 survived. They were from seed I collected in the Brookings area. Since I have trouble throwing things away maybe it's just as well natural selection stepped in. Someday I may learn to plant things in the ground.

**Help your club! An easy, fun, little time commitment job. What could be better? Be the dinner Coordinator every other month. Contact Rosemary Rebello for more details. 541-997-6167**

A NOTE FROM GENE COCKERAM



I JUST WANTED YOU TO KNOW THAT THE PINK RIBBON RHODODENDRON HAS BROUGHT IN AND DONATED TO PEACE HARBOR HOSPITAL, AND TO THE KOMEN FOUNDATION, \$1,955.00.

THIS IS IN JUST THE FIRST YEAR OF BEING RELEASED. THE MONEY WAS RAISED WITH THE HELP OF ALL THE ONES THAT CONTRIBUTED TO THE PROJECT, THE QUILT, FOR THE RAFFLE, RAISING OF THE PLANTS, THE FIRST DOZEN TEE SHIRTS, ALL OF YOU THAT HELPED IN ANY WAY, THANK YOU, GENE



*November Plant of the Month*  
*r. dendrocharis*

There seemed to be quite a lot of people interested in the dendrocharis that Dr. Keith White showed in the

October program. The little pink to purple epiphytic rhododendron hanging from the trees. So two days later we saw Dennis Bottemiller and asked him to send us one. The specimen he sent has bonsai written all over it. With the slow growing vertical habit, it looks like a miniature tree. It will be sold at auction at the November meeting. dendrocharis is in the moupinense series. Only recently introduced into cultivation, it is very interesting. The flowers are large in comparison to the size of the plant reaching about 1" across. Being an epiphyte, it requires excellent drainage.

Petrocharis is the third member of this series and is very close to dendrocharis. Its corolla is white, and dendrocharis is rosy pink to purple.



**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 in home, business, and public landscapes.
- ✓ Advocating the conservation and preservation of superior plants of our native rhododendrons and the habitat along the Oregon coast.
- ✓ Advancing and supporting the mission of the American Rhododendron Society.

## MENACING MOLES & VOLES

by Jeannie Shields

Hopefully this is an article you don't need to read, but when Larry mentioned they have a mole problem I realized we are not the only ones. We have been fighting moles for years and now we also have voles! If our experience can help your problem I thought I would share some of the things we have learned.

Moles, voles and gophers are all burrowing pests but show different signs of their presence. Moles and gophers burrow underground leaving mounds of soil and raised ridges (tunnels) behind. Voles also tunnel but do not leave ridges. Each of these pests create extensive underground systems with food storage and nesting areas. Their tunnel systems make the soil feel soft and spongy under foot and can result in dangerous holes.

**MOLES:** Mole and gopher mounds are very similar. Mole mounds are generally volcano-shaped, appear circular and have a plug in the middle that may or not be easily seen. Fresh dirt indicates recent mole activity. Moles commonly burrow just beneath the surface creating raised ridges along their paths while they are searching for worms and grubs to eat - not roots. But, the tunneling around roots can create air pockets which will affect the rhody. A mole "home" can be up to 100 yards long!

**VOLES:** Even though voles generally damage plants from below the ground, we realized we had voles when we noticed new growth on certain rhodies was gone! The very top of the new growth was there but the space between that and the old growth was void of leaves! We found some leaves 30' from the rhody they came from! Voles can also girdle larger rhodies.

When voles make their tunnels searching for roots to eat, they do not create raised ridges. Look for the presence of voles by locating small, circular burrow entrances not more than 1" -1 ½" in size with no evidence of digging, loose dirt or tunnels. The difficult thing about the vole entrance is that voles often camouflage it by putting leaves and other such things across the opening making it very difficult to spot. Sometimes voles use mole tunnels to reach the plant roots and bulbs. Small, thin, scratch-like grooves are also indications of vole damage.

**GOPHERS:** Good News!!! We do not have gophers in Florence!!!

There are many products on the market that claim they get rid of moles. (Remember to check the instructions for child and pet safety.) We've tried practically all of them, believe me. We've even tried juicy fruit gum and garlic. We've tried traps several times but still have not caught a mole. We still have these pesky little critters that require constant vigilance.

However, there are a couple of things I feel really have made some progress. They have not solved the problem but have definitely helped.

Moles like to eat the grubs in the ground so grub control is a must. At first we only spread grub control on the lawns but now we throw it everywhere! On the gardens, the lawn, the roads – anywhere to detour them. And, you can apply grub control often. We've probably applied it four times this year.

I have tried "Move On Moles Tonic" and saw a significant decrease in activity. I applied it to every square inch of the garden. The recipe is:

### MOVE ON MOLES TONIC

1 cup liquid dish soap

1 cup castor oil  
2 tablespoons of alum (dissolved in hot water)  
Mix ingredients in 20 gallon hose-end sprayer and saturate problem areas

I found a "Mole-Chaser Tonic" on the internet which I plan to try (we'll try anything)! That recipe is:

MOLE-CHASER TONIC

1-1/2 tablespoons of Tabasco sauce  
1 tablespoon liquid dish soap  
1 teaspoon chili powder  
1 quart water  
Mix all these ingredients and pour a little of the mix into mole runways

Technically, zinc phosphide broadcasted or placed into burrows is the most widely used toxicant for vole control but care should be exercised to reduce non-target uptake. Zinc phosphide and strychnine are below-ground toxicants used for mole control.

**BEWARE!** I know there are many reasons to use weed cloth (and we can discuss those later), but one of the main reasons to think twice about the weed cloth is that it will become a roof for these burrowing critters. We constantly rue the day we thought it was a good idea to put it throughout the garden to help keep down the weeds. Well, between the weeds growing in the mulch on top of the weed cloth and the critters using it as their roofs and burrowing around the rhody roots we have definitely decided it was one of the poorest choices we've made.



CAROL'S ENGLISH TOFFEE BARS

Courtesy of Carol Vetter

1 cup butter      1 cup packed brown sugar      Pre-heat oven to 375 degrees      Butter a 9" x 13" cake pan

Layer with soda crackers, top side down (single layer).  
Boil butter and brown sugar for 3 minutes. Add ½ teaspoon vanilla in butter and sugar mixture after cooking it.  
Pour over crackers  
Bake for 7 minutes  
(Re arrange crackers if they shift)  
Cool for 5 minutes and sprinkle 6 – 8 ounces of chocolate chips on top. When melted smooth out and let cool.  
Put in refrigerator until cool, before slicing.      ( Yummy)



**A keychain is something that lets you lose all your keys at the same time**



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Unnamed seedling



R. ririei



**If you think it's easy being a politician,  
Try to straddle a fence and keep both ears to the  
ground at the same time.**



**Orchid planted in the Rutherford Conservatory**