



Macrophyllum

October 2004

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

Secretary's Report

I must start out this report by saying that I'm thrilled to see some rain in the middle of September like we've been having lately! The thunder and lightning doesn't need to happen but the rhodies love the rain!!

The board met and took care of a lot of club business. It was decided from now on that the work parties at Gallagher Park are to be held on the Thursday after the regular chapter meeting unless otherwise announced. At least one board member will be present each month to help with the work.

Your board is also working on a project for next fall already. It will be a foliage/photo display to be held at Fred Meyer's showing things that are attractive for your garden that time of year. Any suggestions for this activity see a board member.

People willing to write rhododendron related articles need to talk to Chris Atkin, Newsletter Editor, or a board member. We would love to have a variety of authors!

Everett Hall told us the macrophyllum in Bandon he usually gathers seed from didn't produce any this year for gathering; maybe next year.

Mike Bones gave a report on the District Meeting held in Eugene. A representative attended this meeting from every chapter in the District, and lots of information was exchanged. It was decided that only rhody members would be judges at flower shows. Also, we are to be thinking about the possibility of District 4 chartering a bus to Victoria for the convention in the spring. Let Mike know what you think of this. If you are willing to be on a list of available speakers that will travel to other chapters to present a program, let Everett know. The big news is all the District 4 Chapters enthusiastically support the all district flower show that is planned for the 2007 Rhododendron Festival.

Study group meetings will be discussed at the October board meeting so be watching for news about that!

A Hawaiian convention committee will decide the rhododendron of the year. That group will also give a talk about the convention and activities in Hawaii after the small plant auction to be held in November.

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CALENDAR

OCTOBER

Chapter Meeting

When: Tuesday, October 19, 7PM.

What: Rhodies 101 – the basics of growing rhododendrons.

Where: Presbyterian Church, 3996 Hwy 101, Florence, OR

Pre-meeting Dinner:

5 p.m. at Hickories BBQ Grill, 9th and Hwy 101.

Choice of BBQ, Ribs or Salmon for \$11.50, including tip.

Call Eileen McKenney at (541) 997-2222, or

<mailto:egmc@oregonfast.net>

Reservations are needed

Cookie bakers:

Ginnie Chehak

Doris Cockeram

Vicki Osis

President's Report

October is 'Plant a Rhody' month here in the Central Oregon Coast area and our Chapter is really encouraging the public to plant more rhododendrons and azaleas in their gardens and places of business. Florence has been designated as the number one city in the United States in which to retire and needs the support of everyone in the community in order to live up to it's reputation of being 'The City of Rhododendrons'. We want our central coast communities to become such exciting showplaces in the spring that we will attract visitors from all over the world to come and enjoy our glorious central Oregon coast area enhanced by the beauty of thousands of blooming rhododendrons and azaleas.

Several years ago the Chapter chose October to become 'Plant a Rhody' month because rhododendrons planted now, just before the winter rains begin, will be established in their new location by the time spring arrives. Our member nurseries will be offering discounts to the public on plant purchases to customers who mention 'Plant a Rhody Month' when they choose their new plants.

Of course, as a member of our Chapter you are entitled to a 10% discount when you wear your Chapter badge to the nursery. These nurseries are: Thompson's Nursery on Highway 34 just east of Waldport [where we had a great tour last spring], Bones Nursery 5 miles north of Florence on Highway 101, Shepherds Gardens south of Florence on Highway 101 and Roadside Garden just east of Mapleton, on Highway 126. And now we have another rhododendron nursery who is joining this group - Greer Gardens in Eugene, on Goodpasture Island Road, will also give you this discount on carry-out plants [no mail order plants and not on plants that are already feature sale plants]. Harold and Nancy Greer are members of our chapter and we had a wonderful tour of their garden last spring. Remember, you must be wearing your chapter badge at all of these nurseries when you make these purchases in order to get the discount.

Our next Chapter meeting topic will be 'Rhododendron 101'. This meeting will begin at 7 p.m. at our meeting place- the Presbyterian Church of the Siuslaw. We are encouraging the public to attend and participate in the question and answer session as well, so we will probably have a larger than usual attendance. This program is intended for beginning rhododendron growers so bring a guest and settle back for a great evening. If you are an experienced grower, take yourself back to when you too were a beginner [we were all there once] and join in the fun of Rhododendron 101.

Try to remember our work sessions at Gallagher Park. This garden is already nice and with a little effort on our part we can make it into one of the garden gems of the Oregon coast. We want this garden to become a place where people can relax and enjoy the beauty of our favorite plants. And what a great opportunity to promote the planting of more rhododendrons and azaleas by giving the public a place where they can learn about the wide variety of plant sizes, forms, leaf variations and the glorious range of colors that encompass this wonderful genus.

Our new work session time is on the Thursday morning following our regular Chapter meeting.

Some growers give their plants a light fertilizing in the fall to help them come through the winter in good condition. I don't do this because I want my plants to harden off and go into whatever dormancy they go into in our area. I prefer to wait until February to fertilize when I'm fairly sure we won't have any more severe weather. However, if you have a plant that is turning pale green/ yellow then a small amount of fertilizer is probably a good idea.

Everett Hall, President

Chapter Dues

Just a reminder, it's time to renew your ARS membership for 2004-2005. Renewal notices were given out at the last two meetings and the rest were mailed Sept. 24th. Dues are due December 1, 2004, but we would like to complete the renewals ASAP. Family membership is \$40. Individual membership is \$35. If you would also like to be an Associate Member of another chapter, the membership is an additional \$8. Please mail your dues payment to Siuslaw Chapter ARS, P O Box 1701, Florence OR 97439 or bring to the October 19th meeting.

On-time renewal means you will receive the quarterly ARS Journal and the Macrophyllum without interruption. Our chapter receives \$8 of the membership to help meet our chapter expenses. If you did not receive your renewal notice, please call Cheryl Prchal at (541) 902-7637 or e-mail prchals@oregonfast.net and we'll get one out to you right away.

Also if you know of anyone that has expressed an interest in learning about rhodies, invite them to our Oct meeting...Rhodies 101...and hopefully they will decide to join our active and fun chapter.

Cheryl Prchal, Treasurer

Dr. Rhody,

Help! My favorite deciduous azalea is covered with white powdery stuff! It's been fine all spring and summer. Now all of a sudden there's this white stuff all over the leaves and flower buds. What can I do? Is my plant dying? What is happening?
Panicked

Dear Panicked,

First of all take several deep breaths, sit back, and try to relax. It is not as bad as it looks. Your favorite azalea has mildew. In our climate deciduous azaleas frequently are affected by mildew as their leaves are beginning to drop. The fungus usually shows up in the fall and sometimes can look quite unsightly. There are some steps you can take to help your plant. Dense plantings and lack of air movement seem to contribute to the onset of the fungus. So, trim back plant material to provide for air movement. Remove leaves after they drop, clean up around the base of the plant. This should help prevent a reoccurrence.

If you notice the fungus next year you can spray with a fungicide. Spectracide produces a product called Immunox that seems to work quite well. It is readily available at many garden centers. There are several other fungicides that can be used. Check the label and follow instructions carefully.

The infection is not terminal on deciduous azaleas; you don't have to spray if you don't want to. Next years leaves should be normal and the flower buds are rarely diseased.

I have been informed that this fungus is not the same as the powdery mildew fungus. It seems to be much easier to control and causes less stress and damage to the plant.

Now, don't you feel somewhat more relaxed? I don't believe your prize plant is in any danger of becoming a memory.

Dr. Rhody

Gallagher Park

The Thursday after the rhodie meeting seemed to work this last workday. We had a real good turnout, and I think the signup at the meeting got a good response from our members, a lot was accomplished, a few more day's like and the park will look really good. Thanks to all of you who helped.

Gene

Rhododendron Events

November 2-4, 2004: New Zealand Rhododendron Association 60th Anniversary Conference, Gore, Southland, New Zealand.

April 27-May 1, 2005: ARS National Convention, Victoria, BC

Sept 9-12, 2005: 25th Western Regional, Newport, OR

Nov 4-6, 2005: NE Regional, East Windsor, NJ

May 12-15, 2006: ARS National Convention, Washington, DC

Shirts For Sale

Sweat shirts with Siuslaw 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.

Plant of the Month (pictured next page)

Month *R.occidentale*

Our garden tours, arranged for us by Debbie and Pete Petersen this past spring were all really enjoyable and the one to the Bandon - Port Orford area looking for *R.occidentale* whetted our appetites for more. On this trip we were able to find some really nice plants in bloom but probably the best ones were in a cow pasture. The owner gave us permission to walk in and enjoy the plants assuring us that his cow [who had no name- poor thing] was a gentle animal. We noticed that these plants were growing in a very wet, almost boggy soil [We spent a lot of time looking at the ground!]. *R.occidentale* seems to grow well in this type of soil and along side streams. In fact some of the plants we saw appeared to be almost in the water.

There have been two recent articles in our ARS Journals about *R.occidentale*. In volume 56 number 4 Fall 2002, Britt Smith has a good article, accompanied by some beautiful pictures of some of the plants and the wide variation to be found in this species. In the last ARS Journal- volume 58 number 3 Summer 2004 Mike McCullough wrote a very interesting article about going to the Stagecoach Hill area in Humboldt County, California on a bicycle and seeing some of the plants that Smith and Mossman found, named and introduced several years ago. McCullough gives a pretty good detailed description of exactly where these plants are located.

R.occidentale has perhaps been studied more than *R.macrophyllum* but both of these species are native to Oregon and California and we need to learn all that we can about these wonderful plants and how we can best protect them.

Everett Hall

