



Macrophyllum

October 2007

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

WEBSITE: <http://www.siuslawars.org>

Paul Wilson, Webmaster- (541) 902-9780, rhodyfan@mac.com

UPCOMING Chapter Events

Topic – Rhodies 101a ... bring your notepad!

Chapter Meeting – the October meeting is on Tuesday the 16th^t at 7pm at the Presbyterian Church on Hwy 101. Contact Eileen McKenney for reservations (541) 997-2222 or egmc@charter.net.

Pre-meeting dinner- will be held at Aztlan at 5pm. Contact Eileen McKenney ahead of time for reservations (541) 997-2222 or egmc@charter.net.

Cookie Team this month – Jenny Velinty, Ginger Bell, Jeannie Shields, Donna McCauley

Gallagher Park Work Party – Thursday 10/18. Meet at 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.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT By: Mike Bones

I want to thank all of you for helping make the Western Regional 2007 in Newport such a fun Rhododendron Experience. It took a lot of organization and planning, Many hours, behind the scenes, of dedicated work and everyone there to pull it off. It was so nice to see the new faces and also greet those who have attended previous conferences.

A Great Job to all.

Don't miss this month's Rhodies 101a presentation. Every year we learn something new as members share tips throughout these presentations.

October is **PLANT A RHODY** month! This month is customarily identified as the perfect time to plant a rhododendron or azalea and traditionally the club has encouraged everyone to do so in their gardens and around the city of Florence. Many local nurseries have bargains at this time of year, so be sure to visit your local nursery to see what is in stock.

There are still several chair positions within the chapter that need to be filled. The positions of book sales, show chair, and garden tours are open. I hope some of our many talented members will come forward and give it a try. It is very rewarding to be involved in the chapter!

We'll see you next week at the chapter meeting.

Mike Bones

IT'S MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME !

Our chapter treasurer, Nancy Fullmer, sends this reminder that your membership is due. Anyone who hasn't paid the 2007-08 dues is asked to do so as soon as possible. Here is the price breakdown:

Individual	\$35	(*categories which are partially or 100% tax deductible in US)
Family	\$40	
Commercial/Corporate	\$90*	
Sustaining	\$50*	
Sponsoring	\$100*	

By paying your dues this month, you will still be eligible to receive the monthly ARS journal. For more information about membership contact Nancy Fullmer at 997-7579 or nfullmer05@msn.com

SECRETARY'S REPORT By: Kathy Bones

Your board is hard at work coming up with ideas for fun and educational meetings for you to enjoy! If you have any suggestions on a topic you'd like to hear, let a board member know and they will try to make it happen. We are starting the new Rhody year with the ever-popular "Rhodies 101a" followed by "Rhodies 101b" the next month. There are so many things to think about when buying, planting and taking care of rhodies, the panel comes up with more information to share every year! We will be having our annual Christmas Party in December then talks on hybrids and one on companion plants. You won't want to miss the program in March when "Show Preparation" will be presented. We finish the program year out with the annual plant auction where it's always entertaining.

Our President, Mike Bones, has asked us to start thinking about hosting the Western Regional in 2010 here in Florence. It's a fun undertaking in which everyone can be involved. We must submit our request to the ARS Board for the official "okay-dokay".

If you are disappointed that there are no books for sale at the meeting, start thinking about becoming the BOOK chairperson. Maybe you know someone in the Chapter who would make a great book chairperson but is too shy to volunteer. Tell a board member and we'll personally invite them to help. It's fun to be involved!

Do you like to visit other gardens? We need a TOUR chairperson to set up the tours this year! See a board member for details!

Kathy Bones



Cilipinense

A fantastic dwarf hybrid between two fine and floriferous dwarf species (*ciliatum* x *moupinense*). Masses of pale pink flowers in early spring with shiny hairy leaves and a compact dwarf habit. Very easy to grow and worth a place in every garden.

One of the finest of the early season hybrids and a personal favorite. (+5\12

For more information and pictures of rhododendrons and azaleas, check the Rhododendron Species Foundation website.

www.rhodygarden.org/pictures.html

Editor's Note: Every month I look for articles, pictures, suggestions and more...things that might help all of us, whether new gardeners or seasoned pros. Here is an excerpt from the American Rhododendron Society's website that I found very helpful for general garden maintenance. MM

From the ARS "Plant Tips" section... **Kath Collier** from the **Portland Chapter** always has some practical, worthwhile, everyday tips for gardeners. Let's look at what she recommends:

Like other good rhodoholics, I have a tendency to consult with people at work over their plants. The most common questions seem to relate to pruning...and usually involve long ignored plants. A quick search of the Internet brought a wealth of articles on pruning. Particularly liked an article by Douglas F. Welsh, Texas A&M University System, and Everette Janne, Extension Landscape Horticulturist (retired) who had some real "down home" advice.

"The old idea that anyone with a chain saw or a pruning saw can be a landscape pruner is far from the truth." Amen!

"Do not prune at the convenience of the pruner...but rather when it results in the least damage to the plant." Hallelujah!

Keeping your tools clean is critical when pruning in general. This will help keep any outbreaks from spreading. Some people recommend alcohol and bleach. I like to use those new bleach wipes that pull out of the container...ready to go. I usually tuck a few in a plastic bag and take them with me when I prune...carefully cleaning my tools between each plant.

Getting a good, clean cut is also important...which means you may need to sharpen the tools you use on a regular basis. This will also make the pruning process easier and well worth the extra few minutes spent sharpening. Tearing the bark and ragged cuts can create an open door for pests and diseases...both for trees and shrubs.

The strength and vigor of the new shoot is often directly proportioned to the amount the stem is pruned back since the roots are not reduced. For example...if the deciduous shrub is pruned to one foot from the ground, the new growth will be vigorous with new flowers the first year...if only the tips of the old growth are removed, most the previous branches are still there and new growth is shorter and less vigorous. Flowers will be more plentiful although smaller. Thus, if a larger number of small flowers and fruits are desired...prune lightly. If fewer but high-quality blooms or fruits are wanted in succeeding years, prune extensively!

Pruning extensively does not equal a "Texas Chainsaw Massacre." Most deciduous shrubs can be gradually thinned out by cutting a branch or twig off at its point of origin (from either the parent stem or ground level). This rejuvenating pruning method will create a more open plant and not stimulate excessive new growth. Increasing the amount of airflow around the plant will help ward off mildew and other problems in both rhodos and azaleas.

Suggestions come from North and South...and East and West...on how to take care of garden tools. Here are some additional thoughts:

- Make your tools measure up. Turn your hoes, rakes, and shovels into handy rulers. Just paint or notch marks for inches and feet on the wood handles of your tools. You will always have a measuring device when you need one.
- Give rusty tools a vinegar bath. Before you decide to throw away that rusty trowel or other gardening tool...try soaking it overnight in cider vinegar. Wipe away the residue with a cloth...you may find the tool is as good as new.
- Use old oil to keep tools looking new. Kill two birds with one stone in preparing tools for winter. Drain the oil from your power tools...then use the oil to rustproof your tools. Just dip a rag in the oil and wipe them down.
- Add rust protection to your toolbox. Tired of the same sad story of the gardener and the rusty tools? Then check out this absorbing tale. Put a charcoal briquette or a piece of children's sidewalk chalk...the thick, colorful kind...in your toolbox during the winter to absorb moisture. This time...your story will have a happy ending.
- Scour tools with homemade paste. Rusty gardening tools? Get them back in shape with a little salt and lemon juice! Mix enough salt into a tablespoon of lemon juice to make a paste, apply to rusted areas with a dry cloth...and rub.



Rhododendron Protistum

I was surfing the Rhododendron Species Foundation website and found this beauty. Its vital statistics are:

Height: to 6 feet in 10 years
 Bloom time: very early to early
 Plant habitat: ultimately a tree to 90 feet tall
 Sub Genus: Hymenanthus
 Section: Ponticum
 Sub section: Grandia
 Geog area: India (Arunachal Pradesh), N Burma, China (S Tibet, NW Yunnan), N Vietnam
 Foliage: leaves elliptic to oblanceolate, up to 22 inches long lower surface glabrous in juvenile state, developing buff indumentum as plant matures.
 Hardiness: 20°F (-7°C)
 Flower: Pink, Red

President: Mike Bones

(541) 997-3082

rhodies@charter.net

Vice President: Marianne Horney

(541) 997-6626

maribob@oregonfast.net

Secretary: Kathy Bones

(541) 997-3082

kathybones@charter.net

Treasurer: Nancy Fullmer

(541) 997-7579

nfullmer05@msn.com

Board Members:

Jim Smith, Past President

(541) 268-6821

roadside6@msn.com

Linda Swarz (10)

(541) 997-5771

gswarz@msn.com

Pete Peterson (08)

(541) 997-1212

peterston1212@msn.com

Bob Horney (09)

(541) 997-6626

maribob@oregonfast.net

Book Chairperson:

Position Open

Hospitality: Paul & Freda Ziegelmaier

(541) 902-0584

semper_fi@oregonfast.net

Garden Tours:

Position Open

Newsletter Editor & Distribution:

Merilee Mulvey

(541) 997-8025

gmmulvey@oregonfast.net

Show Chairman:

Position Open

Historian: Yvonne Moore

(541) 997-1225

moorey@oregonfast.net

Publicity: Barbara Chase

(541) 997-9720

bchase@charter.net

Store (clothing): Sandi Hennig

(541)-997-2489

fiendish@charter.net

Welcome new members:

Dick & Bea Vanderpool; Walter & Priscilla Zandi; Carlo & Joyce Ferrando; Ron & Susan Sloan; Roger & Jeanne McNa (welcome back!).

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.