



Macrophyllum

OCTOBER 2010

Newsletter of the
Siuslaw Chapter
American Rhododendron Society
Post Office Box 1701
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UPCOMING Chapter Events

Meeting Topic- Crystal Springs presented by Betsy Soifer

Chapter Meeting – this month's meeting will be on Tuesday, October 19 at 7:00 pm. Meet at the Presbyterian Church, 3996 Hwy 101 N in Florence. Dinner before the October meeting will be at Rosa's Mexican Restaurant at 5:00 pm. Contact Rosemary Rebello for reservations (541) 997-6167 or tonyrosemery@charter.net

Gallagher Park Work Party – Wednesday October 20, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. The park is at the corner of Spruce and Hwy 126. Gene Cockeram - Florence City Park Commissioner. flowerman@q.com

Cookie Team- Sharon Samuelson, Judy Johnson, Sandi Hennig, Jenny Velinty

WESTERN REGIONAL CONFERENCE – will be held from October 8-10 at Three Rivers Casino & Hotel Event Center in Florence, Oregon. For further information visit the conference website via this link: <http://web.me.com/siuslawars/WRC2010/>

October is **PLANT A RHODY MONTH-** visit our chapter website link above and learn about planting a rhododendron or azalea this month in Florence Oregon.

October's Favorite Choice ***Seaview Sunset***

Photo by Frank Fujioka

Our chapter Vice-President, Dan Bones, has chosen this beautiful hybrid from Nancy Evans x Canadian Sunset. This plant's predominate color is orange and it is an early bloomer. Height in 10 years is 3 feet. Cold hardiness is 10°F (-12°C). The leaves are elliptic, flat, down curved edges, broadly acute apex, cuneate base, 4" long, semi-glossy, and dark green. This hybrid is an Elepidote and the hybridizer is Frank Fujioka; registration reference # is ARS 974.

This specimen is available at some Lane county nurseries. See a photo of your editor's specimen of Seaview Sunset (page 3) which is thriving in sandy soil in her garden.



GALLAGHER PARK HISTORY

The continuing story of Rhododendrons in Florence...

According to the historical bio of Gallagher Park on our Siuslaw Chapter ARS website, "One of the purposes of the Siuslaw Chapter was to establish a public, native rhododendron (*macrophyllum*) garden. In 1911, A.E. and Irene Gallagher donated land on the corner of Highway 126 and Spruce Street to the City of Florence for a park. In February 1974, Whalley Nursery of Troutdale, Oregon, donated 135 plants for the park. Chapter members took two days to dig up these plants, which were then transported to the future park by Oceanway Transport. They were temporarily put next to the Florence Water Tower in chips donated by Murphy Veneer. They weren't watered much and that summer many died or were stolen."

"Then in March 1975, the first trails were marked out and the first rhododendrons planted. A Memorial Azalea Garden was planted at the main entrance of the park. The City of Florence has installed signs, a sprinkling system, and paved walkways. An advisory committee from the Rhododendron Society meets with City officials to discuss park needs and future development. Today the Florence Garden Club maintains the perimeter of the Park and the Siuslaw Chapter maintains the interior. Gallagher Park is a long term, continuous project which the Rhododendron Society is committed to keeping for the enjoyment of the public."

As your editor was thumbing through the Florence historical files at the Pioneer Museum historical reference room, she found this article from the local Siuslaw Oar newspaper of **August 10, 1928...**

Gallagher's Park in Line for Clean-Up

The records have been looked up regarding the two blocks in Gallagher's addition to Florence which were given by Mr. and Mrs. Gallagher to the city for park purposes on August 30, 1911. It is found that the only conditions required of the donors are that the property shall always be known as Gallagher's Park, and that the brush shall be removed and seats provided for free use. The property cannot be used for commercial purposes.

Local people inform us the brush was removed at the time the property was donated and that seats were placed in the park and many picnic parties were held there. Of late years the brush has grown up and it will now be necessary to remove the brush once more, a comparatively small job. Several people have already volunteered to offer their services. It is thought that the city will be willing to install convenience for the public as soon as the grounds are placed in shape.

The plot of ground is quite suitable for park purposes and can be made one of the best city parks in the county. There is an abundance of shade and ornamental shrubbery, including many rhododendrons. A fine creek divides the grounds the full length of the two blocks.



Present day photos of Gallagher Park

Above: along the park pathway moving southwest towards Hwy 126 and the creek that runs alongside the park.

Left: The park sign near the entrance pathway of the park on Spruce street, just up from the corner of where Spruce intersects with Hwy 126 just east of Hwy 101 a couple of blocks.

Photos by Bill Johnson, Siuslaw Chapter ARS

Ron's Reviews

Hydrangeas for American Gardens

By: Michael Dirr

Publisher: Timber Press

Professor Dirr explains in understandable terminology the basic botanical categories of hydrangeas and how they've yielded the colorful hybrids that are treasured today. He enumerates the horticultural assets and liabilities of each type of hydrangea, and offers invaluable advice on which choices are best for which regions of North America.

Professor Dirr even provides a futuristic glimpse of the interesting and unusual species and hybrids – including re-blooming types – that will be making their way into nurseries in the years ahead. The book also covers propagation, pruning, breeding, drying, design, and pests and diseases.

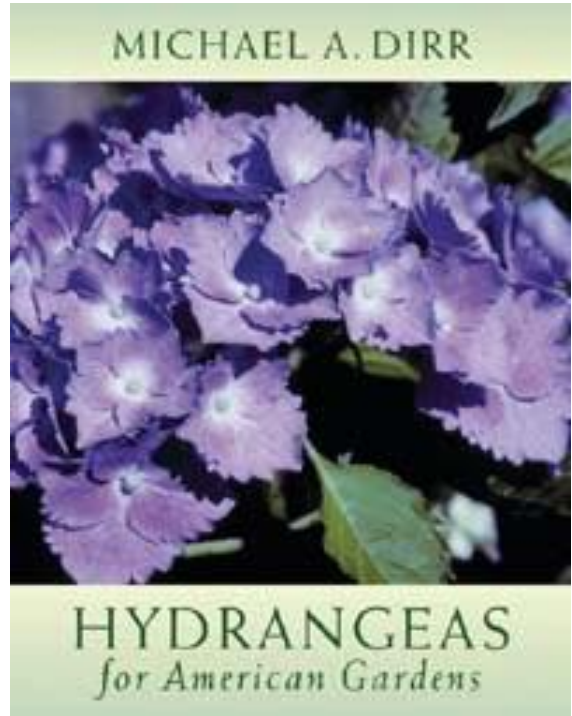
List Price: \$29.95

Chapter member price: \$21.00

Non-member price: \$24.00

For more information about the book and the author, here is the link to Timber Press's website:

http://www.timberpress.com/books/hydrangeas_american_gardens/dirr/9780881926415



October is PLANT A RHODY month

(Cont'd from page 1 article about Seaview Sunset rhododendron.)

This photo shows a bloom from your editor's Seaview Sunset which won a ribbon at the local flower show in 2008.

This would be a perfect addition to any garden here in Florence. The accompanying document to this newsletter covers planting instructions, for rhododendrons and azaleas in the Florence area, from your Siuslaw Rhody Club and it is easy to follow.

O. HOWARD HINSDALE GARDEN UPDATE

Mid September, seated at the keyboard and gazing out the window for inspiration—to (yuk!) overcast skies and the dreary drip of rain showers. The thoughts generated by that exercise are not of what to write, but rather annoyance as it appears this year's green tomato summer will not, at least so far, be followed by the treat of a pleasant, enjoyable and sunny Indian summer. So instead, peer at the screen and focus on the positive in recent progress and future prospects at the Hinsdale Garden.

The most dramatic recent change first encountered at Hinsdale, particularly for those who have been there in the past, will be the entry road spanning the slough into the main garden. In the past this has been spoken of as the “new bridge”, though as constructed it is really much more than a bridge. Large culverts were placed to maintain the water flow, followed with a rock and gravel overlay, then final paving to the level of the highway and existing driveway leading into the garden and toward the house. The end result makes the property a much more obvious and visible destination point, and will at the same time greatly enhance access for personnel and equipment to aid continued work in the garden. Less visible is remediation required by the new access carried out on the route of the slough around the east bank portion of the garden. Among other things, these substantial investments further affirm the Bureau of Land Management's long-term commitment to reclaiming and maintaining a garden significant to the history of rhododendrons as garden ornamentals in Oregon.

And what of the replacements planted as a result of eager digging by Oregon chapter members in November 2009? During a late June visit this year the trusses of a group of R. Margaret Dunn (A. M. 1946) were making a great display. The unusual apricot tinged pink flowers are both attractive and demonstrate Hinsdale's foresight in choosing varieties for an extended bloom period. Other 'new' plants were making good flushes of growth while settling nicely into their surroundings. They have been aided in this through the drier months of summer with supplemental watering from a large storage tank the BLM placed near the garage as a temporary measure.

But wait, there's more to come. Over the past several months we have been working on a second order of plants to join some twenty species secured last winter, with additions to possibly include some representative members of the Loderi grex along with a healthy number of historically correct deciduous and evergreen azaleas. A gate has been installed on the garden side of new access, and some of the azaleas will likely be planted near it to soften the gate's effect and to create a welcoming introduction into the garden.

A planting day for the species and azaleas before winter closes in, or maybe two days, will be announced later. Members will have another opportunity to add their special expertise to the garden's restoration, to enjoy the garden, see progress first hand, and to share the special camaraderie of fellow enthusiasts.



Gordon Wylie

Photo by Bill Johnson, Siuslaw Chapter ARS

Editor's Corner:

The Hunt Begins....

The time has come for your newsletter editor to say goodbye at the end of this fiscal year (June 2011). The chapter board is looking for an interested member who would like to continue the legacy of the electronic newsletter begun years ago by Charles King.

Here are some general skills needed to produce the newsletter:

1. General knowledge of Microsoft Word or other word processing program.
2. Email – create a group email list to send out the newsletter; send occasional messages to the membership from the board.
3. Print out and mail by USPS a few monthly paper copies to members without email service.
4. The editor needs to have the desire to do a bit of research each month about rhododendrons, using the National ARS website and other Internet resources. Start to finish, a typical newsletter has taken Merilee about 8 hours (over the course of a month) with one trip to the Shipping Solutions store to make copies and mail them.

Any interested member may contact the editor, Merilee Mulvey, by phone (541.997.8025) or email (gmmulvey@oregonfast.net). It would be helpful if someone would step forward before January 2011 so that they could work a few months with Merilee and make a smooth transition when she retires in June. If no one steps forward to take on this job, this chapter will not have a newsletter to begin in September 2011. We hope a member will volunteer this year for the good of the cause.

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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:

- 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.