



Macrophyllum

OCTOBER 2008

In Memory of Eileen McKenney

Newsletter of the
Siuslaw Chapter
American Rhododendron Society
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UPCOMING Chapter Events

Meeting Topic- Rhododendron and Azalea Bonsai Presented by Lee Cheatle

Chapter Meeting – the October meeting is on the 21st at 7PM at the Presbyterian Church on Hwy 101. Dinner this month will be at The Bridgewater Restaurant (1297 Bay Street, Old Town) at 5:00 pm. Contact Rosemary Rebello for reservations (541) 997-6167 or tonyrosemay@charter.net

Gallagher Park Work Party – Thursday October 23rd from 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.
flowerman@q.com

Membership Renewal- Is due **NOW**... for more information, contact Ann Blizzard at 997-4988 or artagreece@yahoo.com.

Cookie Team- Jeanne Gottschalk, Ron Sjogren, Debbie Peterson, Connie Rosenbalm

Special News – OCTOBER IS 'PLANT A RHODY' MONTH

Plant a Rhododendron this Month!

For new members and seasoned as well... this month is dedicated to planting rhododendrons. It is also the last recommended time to fertilize rhododendrons before winter dormancy begins. Mike Bones tells me that you can begin again in February with fertilizing sparingly throughout the growing season. Remember, more is NOT always better!

If you are living on a sand lot (as many in town do), be sure to prepare your planting hole as follows: dig the hole about twice the size of the plant root ball and put some good medium into the bottom of the hole. Harold Greer suggests a three part medium (one part bark, one part peat moss and one part garden loam). The same medium mixture can be used as a mulching once the plant is set in the hole and filled in (don't pack the medium down too tightly... the plant needs some air spaces. Mound the mulch around the drip line of the plant so that water runs into the root ball area, not away from it. Keep stem area clear.

Last but most importantly, set up a watering device that will keep your plant area moist but not saturated. Rhododendrons like a constant supply of moisture, but do not like to stand in stagnant water.

A very popular book the club keeps on hand is Harold E. Greer's Guidebook to Available Rhododendrons, 3rd edition. On page 11 you will find "What Rhododendrons Require," detailed instructions for planting and care of your plant. You can also visit the Greer Gardens website for more information about plant care.

www.greergardens.com

FLOWER SHOWS COLUMN.... From Linda Swarz

Hello again!

The show racks are all painted black and are back in the storage shed waiting for show season. We decided not to paint the easels this year – they should be pretty well hidden down below and are polished metal on the ends that will be seen. We have spare paint and can also touch them up with black magic markers in a crunch! Thanks to Gene for letting us use his property for the work and Nelson Glaser for leading the effort. All those who sanded, hauled, and painted did so in record time! You are all great!

Some of our folks that have been doing the same jobs for years have been promoted to show advisors. They will be key players in training new folks at their positions so that we have a new primary and an experienced backup for future shows. Congratulations to Freda who always organized a cheerful team and entry table to welcome visitors to our show. And to Dave and Jan who provided beautiful plants for sale and trophies for the winners. And to Gene who has done everything for always. And to Jim who was show chair for 11 years and who I will rely on heavily as a mentor! There are other positions that need backups and those will be determined and noted in this newsletter as they occur.



Our shows have grown exponentially in the last few years – the entries, the various displays, larger plant sales, more ribbons for more entries, more trophies. We also encourage new and different activities, awards, etc. each year to entice the public back. For instance, Ziggy will be heading up a new task for demonstration(s) at the show. We will try to do “How to Plant a Rhododendron” this year several times during the shows. This is yet another idea that came up at our after-show meeting “How to Improve the Future Shows”.

We may also discuss awarding, with each trophy, a plant tag naming the winning flower and the class it won. That way each winner can put the plant tag in front of the actual plant that won, as a reminder over the years. This idea came from a member outside of the after-show meeting.

Since our shows are growing and the number of tasks needing preparation before each show has likewise grown, we now have an organization flow for our shows. Of course, the buck still stops with the Show Chair. To spread out the work to be done there will be 6 Project Leaders forming, with the Show Chair, the decision making committee. Each project leader will have several areas to lead and be responsible for (oops, never end a sentence in a preposition!).

For example, Merilee has accepted the position of Project Leader No. 1. Her first assignment will be to come up with a name for her project that better defines it (although she may like being No. 1!!). Her areas of leadership and lead person(s) will be:

- Hospitality – Merilee Mulvey, advisor Freda Zieglemair
- Membership – Ann Blizzard, advisor Nancy Fullmer
- Store – Sandi Hennig, backup Connie Rosenbalm
- Books – Ron Sjogren, backup to be determined
- Rhody Speak – to be determined

Rhody Speak is another new addition - we will have a round table in the show room with a big sign saying something like “Rhody Spoken Here”. Rhody Experts wearing aprons will sit at the table in shifts. Those attending who have questions can sit down as if at a “kitchen table” discussion and ask anything about the hobby of Rhododendrons, companion plants, bonsai with Rhodies and Azaleas, etc. We will provide note paper, pencils, handouts, membership forms, bookmarks, for a kitchen table environment.

Further newsletters will update you on Project Leaders 2-6. For those of you who are still reading this, thanks for your attention. If you have any suggestions about this monthly article or for the shows, please let me know at gswarz@msn.com.

Eileen McKenney

How does one begin writing a story about a woman of great substance when I never actually knew her? With the help of several of her friends, I was able to piece together a bit about Eileen and hope those of you who knew her will feel that it accurately represents this fine woman. It saddens me that this story is in memoriam, but we will all appreciate the qualities of Eileen and remember her as a strong supporter of our chapter.

Merilee/Editor

Eileen with her award in 2008
"Best of Show"



Many of us have had the pleasure of knowing a person who could be considered "A Friend's Friend." By that I mean, a person who has that natural gift of true friendship; sensitivity to others, humility, pride, self-confidence, good listener, caring of the plight of others... I could go on all day describing the attributes of a good friend. These were the first thoughts that came to the minds of her friends, who shared their perception of Eileen with me, for this article.

Eileen knew how to make friends, treat them well, and keep them forever. Her friends tell me that she had a terrific sense of humor and could trade comic barbs and insults in a humorous manner with the best of them! She could make her point in a direct manner in a discussion, but with a sense of humor and finesse that never made anyone feel uncomfortable. Eileen genuinely liked people and her friends remember that as one of her finest qualities.

Eileen was a most generous woman who (with her husband Henry) raised 8 daughters and still had time for philanthropic activities, many in Florence: Hospital Auxiliary, Lady Elks, Kiwanis, and the Board of the Fire District. They moved to Florence so Henry could grow Rhododendrons! Eileen gave tours of their garden to show off what Henry had created with the help of his good friend Galen Baxter. Eileen was on the Rhody Club board for quite a few years and contributed a lot of wisdom toward sound decisions for the club. All will miss her presence at the flower shows; she and Ziggy would greet visitors each Sunday morning at the spring flower shows at the hospitality table.

Let's celebrate the memory of this member of our chapter and remember her proud, independent, strong sense of self. I can imagine that she is watching us now and would encourage all of us to enjoy and live fully the life we have ahead of us. Join us in her memorial on Saturday, October 11th at 11 a.m. in St. Mary's Catholic Church south of the Siuslaw Bridge at 85060 Hwy 101.



Hot Tip for Deadheading

Put a shower cap on your head to keep all that debris from snagging in your hair! It really works, but... (Editor's note: We need a better picture of Mike testing this apparatus.)



Bonsai Books at Siuslaw Library

Complete Book of Bonsai: Principles & Practice

635.9 CHA Chan, Peter

The Art of Flowering Bonsai

635.77 ADA Adams, Peter D

Keep Your Bonsai Alive & Well

635.9772 GUS Gustafson, Herb L

Bonsai, 3rd Edition

635.9772 BON Sunset Publication

Bonsai, 3rd Edition

635.9772 ROG Roger, Alan

... Just a few of the many books available.

Books on Bonsai

I was shelving books at the Siuslaw Library and found several books on the subject of Bonsai. You can also check with our chapter bookman, Ron Sjorgren, to order any book he may have on the subject. Merilee/editor

SECRETARY'S REPORT By: Kathy Bones

Fall is in the air and the "busyness" of the season is upon us! Your board has jumped right in to Chapter business with both feet. Jim Smith and Mike Bones will be asking you which rhododendrons do well in your garden. There is a purpose for this question! They are in the process of creating a "do-gooder" list for Rhodies in our area. This would help potential Rhody enthusiasts choose the best plants for their gardens. Be thinking about your own garden and your best plants!

If you missed filling out the questionnaire about your interests, talents and desired job to do for the Chapter, see Sandi Hennig and she'll help you get one. This is an easy way to be involved in your Chapter and improve it even more! Be sure to send any updates to e-mails, addresses or phone numbers to Ann Blizzard. This will assure that you do not miss any newsletters or important announcements.

The October meeting will be a talk about Bonsai plants by Lee Cheatle. Dues reminders will be coming out soon! Watch for yours. Gallagher Park work parties started in September. Watch for more information about ways to help at Gallagher Park.

The bottles that hold the trusses at the flowers shows will be available in February for you to take home. The Show Committee would like you to take as many bottles and stoppers as you will need for your trusses. This will cut down on the space used in our storage unit and be more convenient for you when transporting your trusses to the shows.

Our Chapter will be donating a rhododendron a year to the landscape of the new Chamber of Commerce Building. This year 2 Rhodies will be donated to get it started. This will be completed for "Plant a Rhody" month, October. Mike Bones and Jim Smith are working on this project. If you volunteer at Gallagher Park or helped with the work party at the Presbyterian Church, be sure to get your 6 free raffle tickets!

Electronic garden tours are coming to our Chapter in November. This is an exciting new way for us to see each other's gardens all year round. More information about this will be coming.

Editor's Corner:

VIREYA... a Rhody by any other name!

I was surfing the American Rhododendron Society's website and found this section linked to Chris Callard's website about Vireya. I had heard of Vireya before, but didn't realize just how lovely this subgenus is...

This excerpt from Chris's website: "This website is dedicated to presenting the plants of *Rhododendron* subgenus *Vireya* – more commonly known as Vireya Rhododendrons, or simply Vireyas."

"Numbering over 300 species, vireyas can be found growing across much of S.E. Asia, principally in New Guinea, Borneo, Sulawesi, Sumatra and the Philippines. Although these are tropical regions, vireyas mostly grow in the cool mountainous areas, either as epiphytes high in the tall trees of the cloud forest, or in more open ground in shrubberies. Here the climate is more temperate and this makes the vireya ideal for wider cultivation across many parts of the world.

Given their basic requirements of a frost-free growing environment and a sharply draining compost, vireyas will reward the grower with regular displays of exotic, often scented, blooms in a range of vibrant colours, many backed by distinctive foliage with an attractive scaly covering.

The beauty of the vireya has long attracted the attention of hybridizers in further developing the already varied range of flower and leaf forms of the species and many excellent cultivars have been named as a result of their work."

Below are two Vireya pictures on the website: Rhododendron Caespitosum. Check out the ARS website and see all the great information...

www.rhododendron.org



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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.