



Macrophyllum

SEPTEMBER 2009

Newsletter of the
Siuslaw Chapter
American Rhododendron Society
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UPCOMING Chapter Events

Chapter Meeting – Tuesday, September 15...meet at Abby's Pizza for dinner at 5pm. Afterwards, (around 6 pm) we will all meet at Gallagher's Park and enjoy an evening learning about the history of the park, how to take cuttings from mature rhododendrons and other interesting information about this beautiful garden that is maintained by the Rhododendron Club in partnership with the Florence Garden Club. The park is at the corner of Spruce and Hwy 126.

Gallagher Park Work Party – Wednesday September 16 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. Gene Cockeram-City Park Commissioner. flowerman@q.com

New Membership Dues for 2009-10

Our Treasurer, Nancy Fullmer, reminds us that membership dues have increased this year. Dues are due starting in September, so you are encouraged to submit your renewal this month. One change in the dues structure has occurred; there will not be the "single" membership anymore. Anyone, either an individual or a family will pay the same initial membership fee as of this year. Here is the new breakdown of yearly dues:

Individual/Family	\$40
Commercial/Corp.	\$90
Sustaining	\$75
Sponsoring	\$150

Our chapter retains \$10 of the individual/family and commercial/corp memberships; we keep \$12 of sustaining and \$14 of sponsoring memberships. The rest is sent to the National ARS to cover our chapter activities.

If you are interested in participating in a single or family *Life Membership* please contact Nancy at any chapter meeting or by email at nfullmer05@msn.com or by phone at 997-7579 for more information.

Benefits of ARS Membership

As a member of an International Organization, The American Rhododendron Society, with seventy (70) chapters worldwide...for a small fee, you may join as many of these Chapters as you wish. With this membership you receive the quarterly National ARS Journal with a wide variety of information on hybridizing, growing techniques, conventions and much more.

Our chapter's monthly newsletter "Macrophyllum" is full of the latest activities.

Free passes to the Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden in Federal Way, WA

10% discounts on rhododendrons and azaleas from local member nurseries:

Bones' Nursery, Florence
Shepherd's Gardens, Florence
Greer's Gardens, Eugene
Thompson's Nursery, Waldport

Tours of private and public gardens; the opportunity to support and maintain a beautiful City of Florence Park; discounts on Gardening Books.

Year round educational meetings and activities, including picnics and a Christmas Party. Unlimited support in the care and propagation of rhododendrons and azaleas plus hands-on propagation at cutting parties

The opportunity to attend the American Rhododendron Society conferences, with speakers from all over the world and garden tours. Obtain rare and scarce plants at plant games, auctions, sales and conventions.

Plus many other interesting and informative events such as plant auctions and involvement in the City of Florence's Annual Rhododendron Weekend Festivities. Being a part of two of the largest Rhododendron Flower shows in North America.

Mike Bones, President of the Siuslaw Chapter ARS



<http://www.registerguard.com/csp/cms/sites/dt.cms.support.viewStory.cls?cid=10...> 6/5/2008

Cutting Party Southwestern Chapter

Siuslaw chapter members have been invited to this event:

Thursday, September 10
Time to meet is 3pm
Pot Luck Dinner at 5(ish) pm
Host home is Ann Drake
56671 Cougar Rd., Coquille
541-396-2718

Please RSVP to Marjene MacIntyre at 541-347-7269 or her email at marjene@hughes.net

If you have received this newsletter electronically, there is another .pdf document (titled "2009 Cutting Party") with it that has the directions to Ann's home.

Western Regional Conference

Last reminder for the conference coming up this month...

The Western Regional is set for Sep 18-20, 2009 in Federal Way, WA. Titled "Collecting Rhododendrons Around the World" the event is hosted by the District 3 Chapters.

For more information about the conference go to the ARS website www.rhododendron.org

and also

www.ars-2009-convention.org/WhyShouldICome.pdf

Can you find Jeff in all that Shrubbery?

Meet Jeff and Wendy Grant's world famous Rhododendron *TREE*! They were kind enough to share this picture and the article on page 3 (from the Register Guard Newspaper). This is just one of the many large Rhododendron "shrubs" on their property. One of our chapter members, Ron Sjogren, has spent many years identifying and researching large trees just like this one, for inclusion in the national list of "largest trees." Ask him about it sometime... he has a world of knowledge in that noggin of his!

EDITORIALS & LETTERS

The Register-Guard

ALTON F. BAKER, Publisher, 1927-1981
 ALTON F. BAKER JR., Editor and Publisher, 1951-1982
 EDWIN M. BAKER, Publisher, 1883-1897

ALTON F. BAKER III, Editor and Publisher
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An Independent Newspaper

The Register-Guard's policy is the impartial publication in its news pages of all news and statements on news. On this page, the editors offer their opinions on events of the day and matters of importance, endeavoring to be candid but fair and helpful in the development of constructive community policy.
A newspaper is a CITIZEN OF ITS COMMUNITY.

Where shrubs are trees

Florence rhododendron is nation's largest

If we were to go out looking for the biggest rhododendron in the country, which actually sounds like a good project for a day late in spring, we'd start in Florence. Of course, the Willamette Valley produces some impressive specimens, as a visit to Hendricks Park or any neighborhood with established landscaping will prove. But it's on the Oregon Coast where the giants, the leviathans, the Broddingnagians, can be found. And where better to search than Florence, the city of rhododendrons and home of the annual Rhododendron Festival?

Sure enough, a rhododendron in Jeff Grant's garden in Florence has won a listing in the National Register of Big Trees. It's big, all right — 24 feet high and 37 inches in circumference at the base, with a crown spreading 21 feet. These dimensions were plugged into a complicated formula that yielded the national record-holder distinction for Grant's shrub.

Yes, shrub — rhododendrons aren't really trees, even though they

grow large enough to resemble them hereabouts. Their shrubbiness is less likely to be questioned outside the Northwest region, where rhododendrons are usually small enough to fit in pots. All three species of rhododendron native to Oregon are shrubs, as are the other 800 species in the rhododendron genus (which includes azaleas).

But in Oregon, and particularly in a wind-protected site where the conditions of soil, moisture and sun are just right, a shrub can grow into a tree, as Grant's specimen shows. And if it looks like a tree, has a trunk that could be milled into lumber and is the biggest one by far that anyone has ever measured, it deserves a spot in the National Register of Big Trees.

So Grant, and Florence, and Oregon, can take pride in the record rhody. And if people in other parts of the country happen to scan the national register and wonder why a shrub is listed as a tree, we'll have an answer: Our shrubs grow as big as trees. And wait until you see our zucchinis.



Rhododendron Serotinum

Meet our September rhododendron. She has a stunning crisp white fragrant funnel shaped flower. She is a *Very Late* bloomer that grows to a height of 6 feet in 10 years. Her cold hardiness is 5°F and her oblong-elliptic foliage can be 6" long. Her growing habit is "lax and straggling" and her geographical origin is "China (S Yunnan), Vietnam, Laos."

You can view any of the monthly rhodies, presented in our newsletters, at the national rhododendron website (www.rhododendron.org) and then click on the *Plant Data* option, then click on *Rhododendrons*. You can type in your choice or use their A to Z list and you will find a huge list of plants with their bloom time, height, hardiness, predominate flower color, many photos, and a section for more information about each plant.

I use this great resource for every newsletter and also for general planting choices. Enjoy!
Merilee/Editor

This photo is courtesy of the Species Foundation and is from the national rhododendron website.

If you want to see and learn about all the beautiful hummingbirds of the world, check out this great website that Gene Cockeram sent to me! It is a very informative source to help us keep our local hummers safe and healthy.

www.hummingbirdsociety.org

SECRETARY'S REPORT By: Kathy Bones

June's board meeting was quite a full one! Your board not only discussed business of the Chapter, but also prepared the 2009-2010 budget. Programs and restaurants were chosen also! The Western Regional in Tacoma Washington is coming up September 18-19, 2009.

Jim Smith and Mike Bones are working on a contract for the 10-10-10 convention with Three Rivers Casino. When they have it nailed down, a brochure will be created to advertise our convention.

A membership roster will be made available to all members soon. **If you don't want your information included, contact Merilee Mulvey ASAP.** Programs for next year have been tentatively suggested and are being confirmed as I write this! Watch for the final list to excite you about the topics!

Next June we will be electing a new President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and one Member at Large. It's never too early to begin to think about someone to fill these positions. Could it be you? Our own newsletter editor, Merilee Mulvey, is having her article entitled "Tent Caterpillar Fiasco" appear in the Journal soon. Watch for it and congratulate Merilee! We are proud of you, Merilee!!

Sandi Hennig was elected to the 3-year term of Member at Large on the board at the annual picnic in June. Congrats to you Sandi! (and us for getting you!). Eugene Chapter's summer picnic is August 16. Call Helen Baxter if you can go. They are going to learn how to make troughs.

Chapter Contacts

Editor's Corner:

Just a short note this month to all of you travelers (including those 'armchair' travelers)! I had the most wonderful trip experience this summer. My husband and I cruised around the British Isles with four friends. Among the many stops our HUGE ship made was one very special spot... Edinburgh, Scotland. Many of you remember that one of the recent ARS Conferences was in this fine city and I can understand why, now that I've been there in person. (pronounced "Edinburra")

Edinburgh is a mixture of centuries of historical architecture, the stunning geographical makeup of the surrounding countryside, and the lush landscape of city parks. We spent the entire day walking the "Royal Mile" which is a mile long length of historical district in the heart of the city. We hiked to the far end of the mile to Edinburgh Castle (www.edinburghcastle.gov.uk) and then worked our way down the mile to Holyrood Palace (www.sacred-destinations.com/scotland/edinburgh-ho). My feet assured me afterwards that we walked way more than a mile that day!

There were many large rhododendrons throughout the city and I was wishing it was spring so I could see them in bloom! You can try this website to see some of the beautiful green spaces of the city like Princes Street Gardens (www.edinburghguide.com/parks) and then click on the choice "Princes Street Garden East or West" to see some of the lovely landscape we traversed.

The city was jam packed with people, street vendors, actors and other fun activities since we came in the middle of "Tattoo." That is a major festival featuring Scotland's premier military bands celebrating their national bard, Robert Burns, at Edinburgh Castle. Visit this website to see the fabulous regiments and learn their history (www.edinburgh-tattoo.co.uk).

I hope you enjoy this armchair trip. Next year we will travel to France and take a canal and auto trip. I may not see any rhodies, but I guarantee we'll have our fill of their jewel... the grape vine!

"deoch-shlàinte" (to your health, in Gaelic) Merilee/Editor

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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.