

# Macrophyllum

**September 2011**

Siuslaw Chapter

American Rhododendron Society

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## UPCOMING Chapter Events

**Meeting topic- Everything you need to know about growing rhododendrons, but were afraid to ask.**

**Chapter Meeting-** This month's meeting will be on Tuesday September 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm. Meet at the Presbyterian Church, 3996 Hwy 101 N. in Florence.

**This month's dinner** will be at Rosa's Mexican Restaurant, one of our most favorite. Don't miss out! Dinner is at 5:00 before our meeting on September 20th. Call or email Rosemary by September 16th if you plan to attend dinner. 541-997-6167 or [tonyroosemary@charter.net](mailto:tonyroosemary@charter.net)

**Gallagher Park Work Party-** Wednesday, September 21<sup>st</sup> from 10:00 until 12:00 noon. The park is at the corner of Spruce and Hwy. 126. Gene Cockeram, City Park Commissioner. [flowerman@q.com](mailto:flowerman@q.com) .

**Cookie Team** - Cheryl Prchal, Sandi Hennig, Rosemary Rebello, Bea Vanderpool.



The Presidents Message

by Larry Jensen

Sandi has been stressing about the first issue so I better get a message for her to enter.

Finally some summer weather after two months of summer. The rhodies have enjoyed the cool summer much more than many of our friends. The summer picnics at honeyman were enjoyable. Several guests were present, hopefully some may become members.

Living where we do, we have an abundance of moles. So frequently, when I find a rhodie stressed out it is undermined. Needless to say I spend quite a bit of time washing soil back into the tunnels and then stomping the tunnels.

We have been working on cuttings off and on. Lepidotes and some yellows are first. Cuttings are one of the topics for the September meeting. Sometimes trying cuttings of lepidotes is the best way to start. The success ratio can be quite good.

I try not to grow plants in containers. The survival rate is not good at our house. Instead, I try to grow young plants in nursery beds. Trouble is I need to find room for about fifty plants in the landscape. Oh well, I need something to do in my spare time.

See you all at the September meeting!

## ***Plant of the Month for September- Hemsleyanum ssp Affinity***

Attached is a photo of the rhody we purchased from Danny several years ago that bloomed for the first time! Danny estimates the age to be about 14 years old. Photos have been sent to Steve Hootman and Harold Greer and the consensus of opinion is as follows:



Steve Hootman collected seed in the mountains of southern Yunnan in 1995. It is a member of Subsection Fortunea and was initially called "hemsleyanum affinity". Later Steve thought it might be the auriculatum relative "chinsinianum" and it was sold as that for a couple of years where Danny probably got that name it was sold to us as. Steve is now selling it as "serotinum". It bloomed from mid to the end of July and was spectacular. We had

hoped it would be blooming late enough to bring a truss to the picnic -- but, it had bloomed out.

So, R. hemsleyanum, hemsleyanum affinity, chinsinianum or serotinum, enjoy.

Don and Jeannie Shields



### **Editors Message**

by Sandi Jensen

Although I have written a fuchsia newsletter for several years, I am feeling very overwhelmed by editing a newsletter for a genus that is not my specialty.

I am also learning a new word program (2010) that has so many more bells and whistles than my last one, and being the computer maladroitness that I am, it is a continual challenge to enter all the information necessary in a format that is easy to read.

I am hoping to include a few new things like some articles written by members telling what led them to our area, and how they became interested in growing rhodies also known as member profiles. Also, I want to include a few lighter notes. I hope everyone will feel free to send in articles.

SLJ

**Help your club! An easy, fun, little time commitment job. What could be better? Be the dinner Coordinator every other month. Contact Rosemary Rebello for more details. 541-997-6167**

## Tips for Beginners: Controlling Powdery Mildew

Adapted from the 1996 Plant Disease Control Handbook  
Jay W. Pscheidt, editor  
Extension Plant Pathology Specialist  
Oregon State University.

The fungus *Microsphaera azalae* is found throughout the Pacific Northwest on garden azalea and rhododendron species and hybrids. *Microsphaera vaccinii* has been found only on wild Rhododendron *oxidendale* growing on the southern Oregon coast. Disease symptoms have not been found on the other Northwest native species, *R. albiflorum* and *R. macrophyllum*. These fungi are obligate parasites, which means that the fungus must have live tissue to grow and reproduce, and they produce two different kinds of spores. Asexual conidia are most frequently encountered. Asexual conidia can be thought of as clones that make new powdery mildew colonies once they get to healthy tissue. The asexual conidia spread by wind and produce new colonies which produce more spores. Many infection cycles may occur during a summer. Although the disease develops late in summer, overwintering colonies have been observed throughout the winter on the undersides of leaves. Sexual spores are produced in small, black, spherical structures (cleistothecia). They are produced in fall in great numbers on azaleas but are much less often on evergreen rhododendrons. High humidity favors the disease. Growers recently reported more severe powdery mildew on cultivars, such as Rhododendron 'Virginia Richards', that normally are not attacked. *Erysiphe polygone* also causes a powdery mildew but has been reported only in California and Virginia.

### Symptoms

Symptoms appear to be influenced more by cultivar than by environment. The most common symptoms are diffuse pale yellow spots on the leaf upper surface, usually from 0.25 to 1 inch (.6 to 2.5 cm) in diameter. On the lower leaf surface are purple to brown, circular, diffuse feathery areas. Sometimes, a sparse fungal growth is with the spots. Other symptoms on the upper leaf surface include large purple-brown spots, or purple-brown areas associated with veins, or purple ring spots, or occasionally green spots as the remainder of the leaf yellows. Some cultivars such as Rhododendron 'Unique' show no symptoms on the top of the leaf but have typical diffuse colored spots or a heavy powdery growth on the leaf's underside.

Necrotic, brown, sunken spots are not associated with this disease; they are caused by a number of other fungal and environmental factors. Severe defoliation can occur on some cultivars such as Rhododendron 'Virginia Richards' and species such as *R. campylocarpum* and *R. cinnabarinum*. As leaves begin to defoliate, usually in fall or early spring, they can have various patterns of yellow, red, and brown. Other cultivars can tolerate considerable leaf spotting without much defoliation. Most azaleas and some evergreen rhododendrons (such as *R. 'Purple Splendour'* and *R. 'Vulcan's Flame'*) have the typical white powdery growth on both sides of the leaf usually associated with powdery mildew.

### Cultural Control

1. Plant resistant hybrids or species.
2. Remove infected plant parts if practical.
3. The value of removing and destroying fallen leaves is not known. At any rate, it would help only those plants that produce cleistothecia.
4. Reduce relative humidity by adjusting irrigation practices and spacing plants for good air circulation.
5. Avoid planting in heavily shaded areas.

### Chemical Control

Begin multiple applications when you first notice the disease on current-year leaves. Early detection and scouting will aid overall control.

1. Bayleton 25 WP at 1 to 2 oz./50 gal. water. (12-hour wait before contact with plant.)
2. Funginex Rose Disease Control at 1 Tbsp./gal. water. Thoroughly cover both leaf surface.
3. Sulfur products such as Safer's Garden Fungicide. Thoroughly cover both leaf surfaces.
4. Terraguard 50 W at 6 to 12 oz./100 gal. water. (24-hour wait before contact with plant.)

### Use Pesticides Safely!

Wear protective clothing and safety devices as recommended on the label. Bathe or shower after each use. Read the label, even if you have used the pesticide before. Follow closely the instructions on the label (and any other directions you have). Be cautious when you apply pesticides. Know your legal responsibility as a pesticide applicator. You may be liable for injury or damage resulting from pesticide use.

**Further Reading**

Gibson, Ken, "Powdery Mildew, The Unknown Garden Intruder," *Journal American Rhododendron Society*, Spring 1992.

[Source: JARS V53:No.2:p73:y1999](#)



**HE, WHO WOULD LIKE TO SEE HIS RHODIES BLOOM, SHOULD NEVER BUY HIS WIFE A CORDLESS POLE CHAINSAW.**

**Jim Smith**



**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 in home, business, and public landscapes.
- ✓ Advocating the conservation and preservation of superior plants of our native rhododendrons and the habitat along the Oregon coast.
- ✓ Advancing and supporting the mission of the American Rhododendron Society.



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## AMAZINGLY SIMPLE HOME REMEDIES

### An email from John Clarke

If you are choking on an ice cube, don't panic. Simply pour a cup of boiling water down your throat and presto. The blockage will be almost instantly removed. Clumsy? Avoid cutting yourself while slicing vegetables by getting someone else to hold them while you chop away.

A mouse trap, placed on top of your alarm clock, will prevent you from rolling over and going back to sleep after you hit the snooze button. Have a bad toothache? Smash your thumb with a hammer and you will forget about the toothache. Sometimes, we just need to remember what the rules of life really are: You only need two tools: WD-40 and Duct Tape. If it doesn't move and should, use the WD-40. If it shouldn't move and does, use the duct tape.



I did not catch this beautys name, but it lives in the new vireya house in the Rhododendron Species Foundation Garden in Federal Way , Washington

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