

# Southwestern Oregon Chapter

AMERICAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

[WWW.SWOREGON-ARS.ORG/](http://WWW.SWOREGON-ARS.ORG/)

APRIL 2012



## April Program

Jim and Sylvia Smith from Siuslaw Chapter will be here to give us some tips on presenting your blooms as winning entries.

### Meeting Time/Place

April 19 —7:00 pm  
N. Bend Housing Authority  
1700 Monroe Street  
North Bend

### Pre Meeting Dinner— 5:00 pm

Tai's Dynasty  
1388 Virginia, North Bend  
**RSVP to Marjene—**  
marjenem@frontier.com or  
call 541-347-7269

### Meeting Refreshments:

Marjene MacIntyre

### April Board Meeting

April 11th, 9:00 am  
Minute Café, Bandon

### President:

Ray Lee—541-267-4176,  
flyfishr@frontier.com

### V-P:

Ann Drake - 541-396-2718  
rhodyduck@yahoo.com

### Secretary:

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### Treasurer:

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### Newsletter:

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## President's Message

Ray Lee

**T**hank you – Robin Hansen for your presentation on one of your passions, the Cyclamen and for bringing a plant for each member at the March meeting. These are beautiful little plants that I didn't know anything about.

### April, May and June

- I believe these are the three most important months for rhododendron lovers. More and more early bloomers will be coming on for the April 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> flower show in Florence and our Chapter's own show and sale on April 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> at Pony Village Mall. The mid bloomers all come on for the May flower show the Siuslaw Chapter puts on in conjunction with the Rhododendron Festival in Florence on May 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>.

### Very Early Blooming Rhododendrons –

Most of our very early (VE) flowers held up to the rain without turning all brown or yellow like Camellia flowers are prone to do. I have noticed that the VE flowers are much smaller trusses or just a few flowers that I would hardly call a truss

at all. Now, snow is an entirely different matter. Our Snow Lady was just coming into full bloom and the four inches of snow turned all of the flowers an ugly yellowy brown. I look out my office window now and see new white flowers that have opened up since it snowed but all of the brown flowers are still there. Maybe it's time to go out and do my first deadheading of the season.

### Other important dates for your calendar

May 12<sup>th</sup> - Hinsdale Garden open to the public at 10:00 AM  
May 13<sup>th</sup> - Shore Acres Mother's Day Rhododendron Sunday from 10:00 AM until 4:00 PM. Members from our Chapter are needed to staff an information table and bring trusses to educate the public.

May 16<sup>th</sup> - Hinsdale Garden open for ARS members at 10:00 AM

### Proposed By-Law changes

– These changes will be voted on at our Chapter meeting on April 19<sup>th</sup>. Our intent is to stagger the Officer's terms so all are not replaced at the same time.

### ARTICLE V – GOVERNING BOARD

The officers of the Chapter shall be a President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer. The Board of Directors shall consist of the officers of the chapter, 2 directors-at-large and the immediate Past President. Officers and Directors-at-Large will be elected for 2-year terms.

**The President and Secretary will be elected in odd numbered years with the Vice President and Treasurer elected in even numbered years. Elections on May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2012 will be for a one year term for the President and Secretary while Vice President and Treasurer will be elected for a regular two year term. In 2013 the President and Secretary will be elected to a two year term as provided above.** In case of vacancies, the President, with the approval of the Board, shall fill the vacancy by appointment until the next election.

**Next meeting** – April 19<sup>th</sup> is our next meeting. Please come join us to plan for our April flower show and sale.



## Ann's Corner

*Ann Drake*

### MARCH RECAP

Robin Hansen is a grower of cyclamen. She has a mail order nursery selling cyclamen and small bulbs near North Bend. She also is a member of our Southwestern Rhododendron chapter. Her presentation on the culture of cyclamen was informative and interesting. Her slides also included pictures of wild plants growing in various places on our own coast. There are some interesting things growing in our own backyard. She concentrated on cyclamen we can grow easily in our own gardens. A spring bloomer *coum* and *hedrifolium* that blooms in the fall are the easiest to grow. Some are useful for troughs as well as pots and under rhododendrons. Their native habitat is in the Mediterranean region including Turkey and several will do well in our gardens with a little care. All her tubers are grown from seed from her own plants. Included in her new catalog are listings for unusual primroses. The catalog is worthwhile for culture tips too. It is nice to have another companion for our rhododendrons. Thank you Robin.

### MASTER GARDENER SEMINAR

The rhododendron information table at the Master Gardener Seminar was manned by Robin Hansen, Liz Hultin

and Ann Drake. The title of the seminar was "Fertilize Your Mind" and we all did just that and also did a little rhododendron "fertilizing". Maybe we will have a visitor or two at our next meeting. There is a drawing in the middle of the afternoon for various donated items and SWO chapter donated a small rhododendron. The seminar consists of three sessions of classes. There is something for everyone. The dahlia society was represented by Paulette Woodward who is also a rhodie member. The bonsai group had a table also. It was a day to meet old friends and make new ones.

### GROOMING WINNERS FOR THE PLANT SHOW

Jim and Sylvia Smith from Siuslaw Chapter will be here to give us some tips on presenting your blooms as winning entries. Jim has been show chairman at Florence a number of times with many winning entries himself. He also has some lovely hybrids to his credit. I like True Blue. There will be entry tags at the meeting so you can have these made out when you bring your flowers. This is always a fun time for everyone. We will practice preparing our blooms for judging. Classification sheets will be there to help you put your bloom in the correct class. Judges need to see blooms in the correct class. Judges have told us in the past that we submit winning entries but we don't groom them into winning entries. They said last year we did better.

## Across the Kitchen Table

*Bob MacIntyre*

Thank goodness. March is finally over with. By the time it was over we had 14.91 inches of rain for the month. Many days were spent at the computer and looking out our window watching sheets of rain with high winds. I watched many flowers blow off of rhody trusses and dance across the driveway to who knows where. I potted up a lot of 3" and 4" and seedlings put into gallon pots. In the gallon pots I used a new transplant mix from Down to Earth. It is specially designed for transplanted plants. We shall see how successful it is.

Robin Hanson gave us a very interesting program last month on cyclamen. Tom Drake gave some to Marjene about 8 years ago and they were planted on the front Yard. These plants have spread to cover an area 2x3 ft square with many single plants showing up around the yard. These plants are much hardier than I thought they were.

This April meeting we will have Jim and Sylvia Smith back to do a program on prepping your trusses for the show. The last time Jim and Sylvia spoke, our truss scores increased easily 20

-30%. Several of our judges remarked on how much better our plants looked after the program given by Jim and Sylvia.

Jack was unable to get our fertilizer because we did not meet the minimum order of 20 bags.

By the way, you should be finishing up your first round of fertilizing now. Don't forget slug and snail bait. They are out in full force and very hungry.

When you get a chance between storms, remember to pick up, or lightly rake, up, debris from under the rhodies. This prevents hiding places for snails, slugs and rhody destroying insects.

Ray and I did attend a District Board Meeting on March 31. More on that later.

Let's all show up at the meeting and help clean up our trusses for the show.



## ***RHODODENDRON SHOW***

**APRIL 28 & 29, 2012**

#1: We need everyone's help on **Friday, April 27** setting up the show. Set up will begin at 4:00 p.m. We will be setting up in the same area as last year. We will need help setting up tables, display racks and transporting plants from the parking lot.

#2: **Saturday morning, April 28** is a very important day. Blooms start arriving at 7:00 am and will be received until 9:00 am. Help is needed with classifying, placing blooms in the racks, hospitality, plant sales, clerking, ribbons, and taking care of the main table. Once judging starts we need a group of members to provide security so people do not get in the way of the judging. We will need people to sell plants during the judging. There is a job for everyone. If you have not been assigned something to do please ask.

#3: During the day we need people to man the front table, handing out brochures, signing up new members, checking the tubes for water. Selling plants is very important. If you see someone looking at the plants do go over and help them.

#4: **We need everyone to enter trusses and or trusses from your friends and neighbors.**

Remember to groom your trusses in advance, fill out your plant tags before you arrive and to make this task even easier use your pre-made address labels. Do encourage your friends and neighbors that anyone can enter blooms. The more blooms the better the show. Any questions?? Call Pete or Candy Baumer 396-3528, Ray Lee 267-4176 , Bob MacIntyre 347-7269 or Ann Drake 396-2718.

### ***Here are a few tips on submitting a winning entry:***

\*Pick your blooms early Saturday morning or late Friday evening.

\*Put the bloom with a 4 or 6 inch stem immediately in a pop-can half filled with water.

\*Flowers on the truss should be open without blemishes or missing flowers. A single whorl of leaves should surround the bloom without spots or notches from bugs. Cutting the leaves is not allowed

\*Wiping the foliage with water is allowed but no polishing with wax or oil.

\*You must have had the plant in your garden for 6 months prior to show.

\*Only one spray of a variety is allowed.

It is important to groom your entries before you come to the show. 7 to 9 is a busy time. The judges will be ready to go at 9:00.



## Our Photo Gallery

Photos courtesy of Ray Lee & Dan Nickell



Peter Faulk—photo by Ray Lee



Snow Lady—photos by Dan Nickell

## Future Events

- April —Jim Smith, Show Preparation and Judging
- April 14-15—Siuslaw Early Show
- April 28-29 —Southwestern Oregon Flower Show
- May 4-8—ARS Annual Convention, Asheville, NC
- May 17 —Marie Woodward—Dahlias
- May 19—20—Siuslaw Show, Rhody Festival, Florence
- Sept. 21-23—Western Regional, Coast Bastion Inn, Nanaimo, BC

