

# Rhododendron News

Newsletter of the Portland Chapter      vol. LII no. 05 May 2007  
American Rhododendron Society      www.rhodies.org

## May 2007

12-13 –Mother’s Day Rhody Show

15 – Study Group-7PM-Van Veen Nursery

17– Awards Banquet

## June 2007

21 –Dead Head Party & potluck at CSRG

### *Haiku by Kendall*

*The white camellia  
has unfolded its flower  
to the hummingbird*

*Infiltrating  
the song of the frog, the warmth  
of the sun*

*A whisper of breeze  
the tumbling cherry petals  
at play with the sun*

*From blossom to leaf--  
the gnarled plum, all in the wink  
of an eye*

*Daybreak’s edge-- the trees  
in quiet profile; the first call  
of an unknown bird*

*In the cutting cold  
of April showers, the sun  
but for a moment*

--Peter Kendall

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## PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE:

President’s message

BY IRV SNYDER

### LET’S SET THE RHODIES ON FIRE

Go back and look at my President’s message in the October Newsletter regarding the need for new members in our Chapter. Then remember February when we were all encouraged to bring a visitor. We had only three visitors. We need more people coming to our meetings than there were ten years ago. We are an aging organization and need to gear our activities pertinent to what the younger generations are interested in to see more people in their twenties or thirties joining the Portland Chapter of the ARS.

Certainly the rhododendrons are prettier than ever as I write this message. I am looking at Crater Lake, which is unbelievable this year. There are new hybrids coming out that continuously expand our temperature limits, drought tolerance and our pallet of available colors. I wish I had started my rhododendron passion 30 years ago and think of all the things I could have tried.

We have got to get out and sell our passion for rhododendrons, framing it in a manner that appeals to the younger generation. These younger people are also interested in saving the planet, preserving endangered species, living green, enhancing our lifestyle, creating beauty and enjoying leisure time

We rhodie gardeners are doing more to preserve species than many other organizations. We go to the ends of the earth and then climb up waterfalls to sample some heretofore unseen species of rhododendron. We emphasize that we do not capture a species and bring it home: We take a small cutting or some seeds and leave the prize species intact in its native environment. We support the Rhododendron Species Foundation that collects seeds and sends them out to selected growers. This foundation also grows the seeds into plants and sells them to its members. Younger people also notice these activities, so why not bring some of them to our May meeting and watch them enjoy hearing about the Stewart's trip to China.

We must help more people get to know about this. We can get more universities involved in ARS Chapters. We can tell grade school children about adventures with our favorite plants? People get really excited when I tell them that in China rhododendrons grow 100 feet tall and are used for fire wood. Then I show them my Yuka Fairy that is only two inches tall and is five years old. We could regale school children with the adventures of the early rhododendron seed gathers in China. Would you like to invite some grade school classes to Crystal Springs on the Friday before Mother's Day and give them the garden tour, which could end with trusses for them to take home to their mothers? How about working with a high school, suggesting that some student have a senior project to cut and propagate a rhododendron, to explain the heritage of the new plant and describe other ways to propagate rhododendrons. In addition to getting the student interested, we are also hooking his parents and some of their friends.

We need more garden tours, not only for rhodie lovers, but for the general public. I had no idea there were so many beautiful rhododendrons until I visited Crystal Springs. There should be more public tours of Van Veen, Bovees and other local Nurseries. Guided tours of the rhodies at the Pittock Mansion, Bonneville Dam and private gardens, with the public encouraged to attend, could also be beneficial to our Chapter membership goals.

We could fund a contest in selected grade schools where the Portland Chapter of the ARS gives a prize for the best truss that is brought to school around Mother's Day. The prize could be free passes to Crystal Springs R. Garden for the child and his parents, then lunch at a local restaurant with Chapter officers, members and some of our children and some of our grandchildren and our great grandchildren, already infused with the wonders of the genus rhododendron.

I will welcome your input and your willingness to volunteer for some of these suggested ideas.

***We are interested in saving the planet, preserving endangered species, living green, enhancing our lifestyle, creating beauty and enjoying leisure time.*** Let's get others involved.

Do we need to set the rhodies on fire to get their attention? Come to think of it, Crater Lake is glowing like a well tuned blue gas flame and Naselle will radiate color like a big bed of burning wood in a few weeks.

---Irv Snyder

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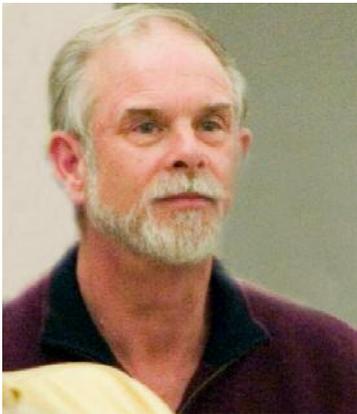
## THE MOTHER'S DAY SHOW

It's coming to a Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden near you on May 12 and 13. This is the big show-off event for the chapter every year. Lots of volunteers are needed to make this a success. Friday night and Saturday morning are set aside for the intake of the truss entries, to be followed by the judging by a panel of experts. The show is open to the public from noon on Saturday through 5PM on Sunday. Then we clean up everything.

In addition to the show, there is always a very large plant sale which specializes in rhododendrons. Here you can support the chapter by volunteering to help with the sale; answer the public's many questions, and even buy some plants for your best friend's garden (yours is already full from the plants that you bought at the April meeting's hybrid auction).

### MAY MEETING: AWARDS AND FOOD

The May meeting is the annual awards banquet. This means catered food - signup information follows below. This also means lots of socializing with other members on the last regular meeting of the "season". First we eat. Then we honor all of the winners of the Mother's Day Rhododendron Show; some 50 trophies were awarded. Finally we will have a special program by Mike and Maria Stewart about their trip to China, profusely illustrated with (digital) pictures.



Mike & Maria Stewart, the program  
for the May meeting



### MAY AWARDS BANQUET SIGNUP

Thursday 17 May 2007 at 7:00pm

The banquet will be catered by Katherine's Catering in Gresham. The menu is:

Prime Rib  
Pesto Stuffed Chicken Breast  
Stuffed Pasta Shells with Marinara Sauce  
(Vegetarian)  
Mashed Potatoes and Gravy  
Caesar Salad  
Orange Cream Fruit Salad  
Relish Tray and Dip  
Rolls and Butter

Dessert table with:  
Flourless Chocolate Cake  
Chocolate Dipped Strawberries  
and other decadent delights  
Punch and Coffee

The price is \$24.00 per person. Please  
make your reservations with Loni Welsh.  
Email is [oregon1853@yahoo.com](mailto:oregon1853@yahoo.com)  
phone: 503-663-6987; Cell 503-705-0695

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## ANOTHER OOPS ENTERS THE ARENA

BY LUURT NIEUWENHUIS

Mistakes will be made. Errors will be illuminated. Faces will redden. Once again it was pointed out to me that I made mistakes in one of my articles. Below is a response from Peter Cox to the article outlining my problem of detecting the differences between trichostomum and Arctic Tern that was presented in the April 2007 newsletter. Here are his relevant comments:

*Arctic Tern is really very distinct from R. trichostomum in many ways: stamens, seeds, scales, in all the characters in which lepidotes differ from one another, so it is not really up for discussion whether it is R. trichostomum. Also it is very prone to rust, which also suggests its hybridity. You have confused the fact that plants are wrongly labeled in the Pacific Northwest for a suggestion that white trichostomum does not exist? or seem to be implying this. I have seen huge numbers of white trichostomum which are easily distinguished from Arctic Tern. The scales are the easiest way to distinguish them. You don't really mention these in your article.*

*I think that Arctic Tern may be trichostomum x micranthum; I would agree that there is not much sign of ledum in it.*

*Rhododendrons do not have 'florets'. Only Compositae do. Rhododendrons have inflorescences made up of flowers.*

First, I hope that I didn't give anyone the impression that I thought that R. trichostomum (album) doesn't exist. The point that I was trying to make was that no one that I talked to in the Washington-Oregon area could explain what the difference between trichostomum and Arctic Tern was. Some of the distinctions given by Peter Cox, such as the appearance of the scales of the two plants probably evade the everyday rhodoholic. The mere presence or absence of scales seems sometimes to evade people! See the e-newsletter for an extended explanation of the appearance of the leaves and scales, even with PICTURES!

Secondly, there is the matter of the use of the terms florets and inflorescence. I admit confusion on my part. I 'learned' the meaning of these terms from some old show schedules which gave definitions for the words. My qualified *mea culpa* is that I didn't double check the meaning of the words in a reputable dictionary of biological or horticultural terms.

Inflorescence applies to the opening of a flower bud with no regard to how many individual flowers might be contained within that bud. Floret is a term that is restricted, by definition, to composite flowers such as sunflowers, and to a few other non-ericaceous plant types. It looks like we either keep the confusion in the rhododendron world what we mean when we talk about a rhody flower - are we referring to one of the flowers in the truss or the entire truss? - or will we start to consistently apply the correct terms of truss and flower in all rhody circumstances?

---Luurt

TIME FOR SOME CLARIFICATION PICTURES:

Last month's newsletter showed pictures of the flowers of trichostomum and Arctic Tern. Since Peter Cox brought up the topic of scales, here are some examples. First, the leaves: Yellow Hammer is a lepidote hybrid that I included because the leaves are about the same size but the scales and pores are different.



Above: *R. tomentosum* - see note on page 13  
Below are top and bottom close ups of *R. trichostomum* var *ledoides*.



Here are the same two views, but this time of Arctic Tern



And finally the same two views of Yellow Hammer



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So it is possible to differentiate some plants on the basis of pores and scales, but few of us have ever learned the differences.

## THE COMPOST HEAP REVISITED

RON SPENDALL AT THE APRIL MEETING

BY KATHY VAN VEEN

Master Gardener Ron Spendall was invited to our April meeting to instruct us in composting. He has completed a course of study allowing him to be called a Master Composter, and that he is. You can see his composting in action at the Washington County Fairgrounds in Hillsboro and at the Oregon Food Bank.

There is a lot to making compost and few people know how to do it right. Most do what he calls passive rotting- throw some old organic stuff in a heap and come back later when it is all brown and dirt-looking.

This is not the way. To make real compost you have to work at it, big time. The pile should be only a cubic yard in size, be very well aerated (as in wire mesh bin), have the proper ratio of “browns” (nitrogen) and “greens” (carbon) and be turned every 3 (three!) days. Also one must NEVER keep the pile moist by using fresh tap water. The chlorine does in the microbes that are doing all the work. You thought that you had your dirty hands full with all this. In actuality you are only part of the team. Think of your busy microbe friends generating all that heat and at least give them decent water!

After an exhausting ten weeks or so you are ready to reap your reward - about half a yard of wonderful beneficial compost for you to admire and your plants to enjoy.

Remember, though, compost is not a fertilizer in the usual sense. It has a very low NPK content. That's OK though. Regular fertilizer is kind of like vitamin pills. You get a good dose of what is required to be healthy but you shed most of what isn't needed at the moment. What a waste. Its best for both the plant and the people to get their goodies the slow and steady way. Some 20-20-20 for your rhodies or skittles and gumdrops for you is momentarily satisfying but does not hold up in the long run.

Ron distributed a well-done handout spelling out all of the things that he talked about. Its quite helpful if you want to gross out your table mates at dinner (it works). Try bandying about the names of the smelly products of anaerobic (non-oxygen) decomposition such as cadaverine and putrescine. Come to think about it they should also be enough to get you out of turning the old compost pile. Who needs any of that around?



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BONUS SPEAKER IN APRIL  
DR. GEORGE ARGENT  
by Kathy Van Veen



After the compost presentation we had quite an unexpected treat. ARS gold medalist Dr. George Argent was introduced. He is the tropical botanist at the Royal Botanic Garden in Edinburg and was visiting E. White and Lucie Smith following the rhododendron conference in San Francisco the seek before.

He gave a quick, informative, and humorous slide show about his travels in the tropics studying vireyas over the last 30 years.

His book Rhododendrons of the Subgenus Vireya was just published in 2006 and is reviewed in this month's ARS Journal. White brought George to our nursery for a visit (and to sign his book) and the loving look on his face as he patted out cat Kelly I will never forget.

Nor will I foret one of his stories at the meeting Thursday night! But I cannot repeat it even in this, my role as reporter. (Hint: it had to do with native men, their attire, and their request for paper money.)

I say this because I reported something peter Kendall said, and that review has yet to be printed. So if you ever want to know what either of them said, ask me. Better yet, make sure that you never miss a monthly meeting. You hear some really interesting things sometimes!

Anyway, thanks George. We were honored by your presence.

---Kathy

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## EARLY BLOOMERS SHOW RESULTS

As late as the April 7 date was, many members had a freezing 27°F several days before the show. This limited the number and variety of the entries to the show. Nevertheless, everything went off without a hitch.

Scattered showers and grey skies kept the visitor totals down. The plant sale area still had its share of people snapping up the better bargains and unusual offerings. On the other hand, the garden was a photographer's delight. The 25 ft tall Loderi King George and Venus plants were in full majestic bloom. The garden's R. maccabeanum has never bloomed better, and many other early bloomers were out in full force. And the nicest thing (for the photographer) was that there were no people in the way to block most of the photo opportunities.

The most points trophy went to Don and Dorothy Patrick, who beat Dick and Karen Cavender out by the margin of one red ribbon.

Here is a list of the winners. The full list of ribbons and their associated plants will be found at the end of the newsletter.

Patrick, Don & Dorothy	83		
Cavender, Dick & Karen	80		
Bovees Nursery	60		
Van Veen Nursery	40		
Mac Arthur, Bob	36		
Goheen, Dave & Betty	20	Metcalfe, Ernie	6
Nieuwenhuis, L & J	17	Molina, Vicki	5
Girton, Ray	15	Collier, Dave & Kath	4
Bates, Susan	10	Kendall, Peter	3
Kimball & Volpel	7	Averill, SK & KK	3
Metcalfe, Susan	6	Clack, Ray & Ann	1

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R.cephalanthum - pretty enough for a ribbon

Judging can be a real head scratching challenge





*R. macabeianum* has taken exceptionally well to its stay at Crystal Springs RG



The ferns are starting to grow on the fern wall

l



Happiness is not having to share the garden and low bridge with 100 other people on a weekend

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Loderi King George towers over all comers



Even the dropped flowers make an impressive scene

## RIBBON WINNERS , THEIR PLANTS AND THEIR CLASSES, April 7, 2007, The Early Bloomer Rhody Show

CLASS	S/H	PLANT	EXHIBITOR	PLACE	trophy
15	h	Elizabeth	Averill, SK & KK	3	
61	s	vaseyi 'white find'	Bates, Susan	2	
50	s	Sliver Thiumbles (vireya)	Bates, Susan	1	
21	h	viscidifolium hybrid "viscy"	Bates, Susan	3	
42	s	augustinii	Bates, Susan	3	
61	s	schlippenbachii	Bovees Nursery	2	
62	s	reticulatum	Bovees Nursery	2	
43	s	searsii	Bovees Nursery	2	
43	s	davidsonianum 'Star Trek'	Bovees Nursery	3	
15	s	chameathonii	Bovees Nursery	1	
15	s	citriniflorum	Bovees Nursery	2	
15	s	citriniflorum	Bovees Nursery	3	
17	s	metternichii	Bovees Nursery	2	
21	s	thomsonii	Bovees Nursery	1	
21	s	thomsonii v. meddianum	Bovees Nursery	2	
14	s	ochraceum rsf#new	Bovees Nursery	1	
2	s	adenopodum	Bovees Nursery	1	
7	s	rex	Bovees Nursery	3	
8	s	huianum rsf#new	Bovees Nursery	2	
39	s	primuliflorum	Bovees Nursery	2	
39	h	anthopogon hybrid	Bovees Nursery	1	
39	s	cephalanthum	Bovees Nursery	1	
32	s	flavidum	Bovees Nursery	2	
34	s	johnstonianum "double diamond"	Cavender, Dick & Karen	1	protected
24	s	arboreum #2	Cavender, Dick & Karen	2	
34	h	lindleyi hybrid	Cavender, Dick & Karen	2	
34	h	Countess of Haddington	Cavender, Dick & Karen	2	
18	h	Noyo Brave	Cavender, Dick & Karen	1	
21	h	Sikkimenses	Cavender, Dick & Karen	1	
21	s	pl-9 unknown	Cavender, Dick & Karen	3	
111		blooming branch if arboreum ci	Cavender, Dick & Karen	1	
12	h	Spatter Paint	Cavender, Dick & Karen	1	
14	h	makinoi x pachysanthum	Cavender, Dick & Karen	3	
14	h	Taurus	Cavender, Dick & Karen	1	
2	s	floribundum	Cavender, Dick & Karen	3	
40	h	Shamrock	Cavender, Dick & Karen	1	
42	s	augustinii	Cavender, Dick & Karen	2	
38	s	spinuliferum	Cavender, Dick & Karen	1	
38	s	racemosum	Cavender, Dick & Karen	2	
32	s	yungingense	Cavender, Dick & Karen	3	
32	h	Songbird (russatum x Blue Tit	Cavender, Dick & Karen	1	
23	s	niveum	Cavender, Dick & Karen	1	
32	s	yungingense (glomerulatum)	Cavender, Dick & Karen	1	
25	s	crysodoron "Lord Stair"	Cavender, Dick & Karen	1	
24	s	arboreum ssp cennamomeum	Cavender, Dick & Karen	3	
34	s	veitchianum	Clack, Ray & Ann	2	
101		Karen	Collier, Dave & Kath	3	
35	h	Malta	Collier, Dave & Kath	2	
101		unknjown azalea	Girton, Ray	2	
6	h	Unique	Girton, Ray	2	
6	h	Unique	Girton, Ray	3	
35	h	Pioneer	Girton, Ray	1	
22	H	Olympic Lady	Girton, Ray	2	
100	h	Elizabeth	Goheen, Dave & Betty	3	
113		leaf sets	Goheen, Dave & Betty	1	
8	h	Mission Bells	Goheen, Dave & Betty	3	
12	h	degronianum x irroratum ss #2	Goheen, Dave & Betty	3	

12 h	degronianum x irroratum ss #1	Goheen, Dave & Betty	2	
38 h	Twinkles x racemosum	Goheen, Dave & Betty	3	
38 h	Twinkles x spiciferum	Goheen, Dave & Betty	2	
24 s	arboreum cw Bhutan seed	Goheen, Dave & Betty	1	
20 h	Bambi x proteoides	Kendall, Oeter	2	
14 s	pseudocrysanthum	Kimball & Volpel	2	
2 s	adenopodum	Kimball & Volpel	2	
43 h	Star Trek	Kimball & Volpel	3	
105	Dixie Lee Ray	Mac Arthur, Bob	2	
105	Malemute	Mac Arthur, Bob	3	
45 s	uvarifolium	Mac Arthur, Bob	1	
15 h	David	Mac Arthur, Bob	1	
111	Ink Spot	Mac Arthur, Bob	3	
8 h	dgronium x calophytum	Mac Arthur, Bob	3	
10 s	Margaret Mack	Mac Arthur, Bob	1	
2 h	Muncaster Mist	Mac Arthur, Bob	1	
22 h	Rothenburg	Mac Arthur, Bob	1	
24 h	Noyo Chief	Mac Arthur, Bob	1	
6 h	Unique	Metcalfe, Ernie	1	
42 h	Senora Meldon	Metcalfe, Ernie	3	
43 s	davidsonianum	Metcalfe, Susan	1	species
6 h	Unique	Metcalfe, Susan	3	
29 s	edgeworthii	Molina, Vicki	1	
34 h	89-813 #1 burmanicum x ?	Nieuwenhuis, L & J	1	
50 h	Petra	Nieuwenhuis, L & J	1	
34 s	veitchianum	Nieuwenhuis, L & J	3	
114	educatiounal exhibit	Nieuwenhuis, L & J	1	
32 h	Ilam Violet	Nieuwenhuis, L & J	3	
27 h	Balta	Patrick, D & D	0	hybrid
61 s	schlippenbachii	Patrick, D & D	1	azalea
61 s	albrechtii	Patrick, D & D	3	
100 h	Ibex	Patrick, D & D	2	
100 h	Elizabeth	Patrick, D & D	1	
106	Unknjown Warrior	Patrick, D & D	3	
106	Helen Deehr	Patrick, D & D	1	
108	Odee Wright	Patrick, D & D	1	
0	most points	Patrick, D & D		most point
15 h	ELizabeth	Patrick, D & D	2	
17 s	hyperythrum	Patrick, D & D	1	
6 h	Babylon	Patrick, D & D	1	
7 s	rex	Patrick, D & D	1	
8 s	orbiculare	Patrick, D & D	1	
42 h	Lacamas Blue	Patrick, D & D	1	
42 h	Crater Lake	Patrick, D & D	2	
42 s	augustinii "Summer Sky"	Patrick, D & D	1	
38 h	Ginny Gee	Patrick, D & D	1	
38 s	racemosum	Patrick, D & D	3	
32 h	Magenta Star	Patrick, D & D	2	
43 h	Ginny Gee	Patrick, D & D	2	
31 s	rubiginosum	Patrick, D & D	1	
27 h	Aglo	Patrick, D & D	3	
22 h	Kimberly	Patrick, D & D	3	
101	Starlight	Van Veen Nursery	1	
106	Fireman Jeff	Van Veen Nursery	2	
18 h	Noyo Dream	Van Veen Nursery	3	
21 h	Exbury Cornish Crioss	Van Veen Nursery	2	
8 h	Babylon	Van Veen Nursery	2	
11 h	Jeanne Church	Van Veen Nursery	1	
14 h	Matador	Van Veen Nursery	2	

24 h	Bibiani	Van Veen Nursery	2
24 h	Boddartianum	Van Veen Nursery	3
43 h	Lochmium	Van Veen Nursery	1
28 h	Trewithen Orange	Van Veen Nursery	1
27 h	Dora Amaties	Van Veen Nursery	2

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***A Last Minute Afterthought:***

My *R. tomentosum* finally grew big enough to bloom. More complications for identifications and hybridizations. My argument for Arctic Tern being a cross between *trichostomum* and *groenlandicum* doesn't hold as well when looking at *tomentosum*. *Tomentosum* has ten or so stamens (not the 5 of *groenlandicum*), and hairs on the underside of the leaf are mostly confined to the midrib area. It also has shorter pedicels on the flowers and usually about 14 flowers rather than the 16 or more shown in *groenlandicum* trusses. In the bud stage *groenlandicum* and *tomentosum* look quite similar.



*R. tomentosum*

--Luurt



**CHAPTER OFFICERS**

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Treasurer: Dick Cavender 625-6331  
Past President: Kathy Van Veen 777-1734

**BOARD MEMBERS**

**Through 6/30/07**  
Ray Clack, Mike Stewart, Kath Collier, Dave Collier  
Mike Domaschofsky

**Through 6/30/08**  
Steve Hopkins, Brenda Ziegler, Steve Kaminski  
Donna Sell, Maria Stewart

**GARDEN CHAIRS**

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Bob MacArthur 360-256-2522  
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**CECIL & MOLLY SMITH GARDEN**

Ginny Mapes 503-647-2896

**PORTLAND CHAPTER WEB SITE**

[www.rhodies.org/index.htm](http://www.rhodies.org/index.htm)

**Membership and ownership**

The Portland Chapter is a local chapter of the American Rhododendron Society. Combined annual dues to both the Society and the Chapter are \$35 for one person, \$40 for family. Annual subscription price to the 9+ times yearly newsletter *Rhododendron News* is included in Chapter membership

**Online Discussion Group**

<http://groups.yahoo.com> and look for rhododendrons. Participants include renowned hybridizers, growers and hobbyists.

**Tualatin Valley Chapter**

Regularly scheduled meetings on the **second Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m.** - at the:

First Baptist Church  
177 NE Lincoln Street  
Hillsboro, OR.

Phone: **Ginny Mapes** 503-647-2896  
Email: [ginny@coho.net](mailto:ginny@coho.net)

**Siuslaw Chapter**

Meets on the **third Tuesday of the month at 7 pm.** at the:

Presbyterian Church of the Siuslaw,  
3996 Hwy 101 N.  
Florence, OR

A pre-meeting dinner is held at a different restaurant each time at 5 pm. Visit [www.siuslawars.org](http://www.siuslawars.org) to find out where.

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**Newsletter**

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Newsletter article and idea deadline is at the Chapter meeting. Items received after that time might not be included in the current issue.

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Questions concerning delivery should be directed to **Maria Stewart** (503) 668-7565

**Meeting time and place**

Regular meetings are held on the third Thursday of the month except in June, July, and August, starting at 7 pm with a social half-hour which precedes the main meeting.

For location, see

[www.rhodies.org/pdx/pdx\\_meeting.htm](http://www.rhodies.org/pdx/pdx_meeting.htm)

All Saints Episcopal Church  
at the corner of SE 40th and Woodstock  
( a little east of the Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden) in Portland, OR

**Vireya Vine Newsletter**

Receive a newsletter about Vireya Rhododendrons. Submit your Subscription request to:

E White Smith,  
% Bovees Nursery  
1737 SW Coronado  
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