



Rhododendron News



Newsletter of the Portland Chapter vol. LII no 08 August 2007
American Rhododendron Society www.rhodies.org

August 2007

Thursday Aug 16, 6PM
Smith Garden Soiree and
potluck - bring your own food
and drink, party with the
plants

August 12

Tualatin Valley Chapter
summer picnic,
with an exchange of plant
matter
Ron Mapes, (503-312-2879)
25185 NW Svea Dr., Hillsboro,
OR 97124

Table of contents”

- p.1 Recognizing our special people
- p.3 [Everything but the Kitchen sink](#)
- p.8 [Peter Kendall presentation](#)
- p.9 [2008 International Rhody
Conference](#)
- p.9 [Tualatin Chap. summer picnic](#)
- p.10 [slugs on parade](#)
- p.12 [chapter vital stats](#)

RECOGNITIONS

By Carol Barrett

The President’s message in the April Rhododendron News was an appreciated statement about those who contribute their time and effort for the Portland Chapter.

There are other volunteers who should certainly receive recognition. Volunteering at Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden for the past ten years, I have observed remarkable commitment.

Ten years ago Friends of Crystal Springs was still lead by founders Bill Ferguson, Bruce Winston, Ted Van Veen, and Betty Sheedy. Bill Ferguson continues regular Wednesday contact with the Garden workers. His beautifully crafted letters have brought many donations to the Garden. The Friends Newsletter is sent annually to 4,200 members. Its color photographs (some taken by Bill himself) with its welcoming and thorough text are another example of his careful artistry. Bill also oversees the mailing of membership cards and regularly collects and deposits money from donation boxes at the Garden.

Volunteers, most not members of the Rhododendron Society, maintain the Garden from the second week in February through the second week in November - ten months of Wednesdays at the garden. Helping with the plant sales and setting up for the shows are but a part of year-round care for the seven-acre garden.



A seedling azalea

Dan Beasley spends many hours in addition to his regular Wednesdays. His affable nature brings in garden helpers when he talks about Crystal Springs at the OSU Extension area sign-up class. It may take Dan fifty phone calls to provide twenty workers needed each day we “pot up” for a sale. Crews are also provided to set up and take down the Mother’s Day Sale. Dan Beasley personally reminds all of these people in addition to taking calls of inquiry about working in the Garden. Then Dan leads four or more Dead Heading sessions on Saturdays for volunteers who cannot come on Wednesdays.



R. atlanticum

Have you noticed the granite edges along the paths? This work was done by Bob MacArthur, Ernie Metcalf, and crew. They tackle the big projects as well as providing total care of the rhododendrons, plant sales, and the on site rhododendron nursery. Bob and Ernie can be counted on to deliver mulch for a newly weeded bed and remove the debris. Ernie’s genius has kept the waterfalls going; he is the constant presence of the Chapter who works with the ever-changing Parks employees.

Ken Lister, an experienced rhododendron nurseryman, can be counted on to know how to do it. He works tirelessly getting ready for sales and knows how to set up an efficient potting line.

Rose Kress keeps the Gate House staffed during the admission season. She can answer botanical questions and often signs up new members. In addition, Rose voluntarily performs the daily housekeeping chores which make our Garden’s front door appealing, from specimen flower arrangements to sweeping the entry to removing pigeon residue. Rose can often be seen at the Garden seven days a week!

Dot Dunstan was Garden Chairman before Ted Van Veen and continues to keep track of which rhododendron is in which bed. This is no easy task as we add beds and remove dead specimens. Armed with her trusty briefcase, she can be seen crawling under rhododendrons to locate nametags. Dot may bring her special pruning wand or give advice on maintenance.

Bev Watkins, Volunteer Coordinator and Garden Co-chairman, comes early and knows what needs to be done when assigning work crews. She keeps track of volunteer information, communicates with Parks, and even knows how many attended the Dormancy Luncheon for the past five years. Bev is also the contact person for Garden tours, trains

and schedules tour guides, and leads many tours herself. In the winter, Bev prints the Friends membership envelopes and organizes volunteers to complete the mailings.

Betty Sheedy's work as Volunteer Coordinator was split into two jobs when she left the position. Candy Puterbaugh took on a most important aspect. Every month birthdays are celebrated with a delicious cake made by Candy.

Most of all we appreciate those volunteers who contribute their time and effort, week after week, often for years, doing the multitude of tasks required to maintain our internationally recognized seven-acre public garden.

Truly,
Carol Barrett

[return to index](#)

EVERYTHING BUT THE KITCHEN SINK - CARBON IS NEITHER CREATED NOR DESTROYED by Luurt Nieuwenhuis

I initially promised myself that I was not going to get suckered into partaking in the global warming debate. But constant exposure to massive *R. atlanticum* levels of foolishness and distortion would drive any man to drink and the keyboard. Today's topic is carbon dioxide (henceforth referred to as CO₂), emissions and carbon offsets.



R. calophytum

Carbon is essential to all earth life and CO₂ is an essential ingredient to half of all the life on the planet. Banning it will not change that need. Legislating against CO₂ will not change that need. Planting new trees will not change that dynamic. Planting rhododendrons MIGHT change it; I strongly doubt it, but that response to global warming IS worth pursuing.

The dynamic of CO₂ in the biosphere is basically simple. Plants and bryozoa take in CO₂ and water along with a lot of trace amounts of other compounds. They (almost always) use the energy source of sunlight and convert these materials to new plant tissue. In the process they 'excrete' oxygen as one of their waste products. Animals and fungi take in oxygen and water. Instead of sunlight they use plant material (or animal material that started off as plant material) as their source of energy for creating new animal tissue. In the process they excrete CO₂ (and leftover organic materials). Yes, this is a very



The same R. calophytum, ONE day later

simplistic way of looking at the process. Why, we haven't even mentioned trace materials, but at its most basic this is the process.

You can see from the above description that carbon dioxide is both an essential component of the web of life and a compound that continually cycles

through the planet. Note that I don't say 'cycles through the biosphere' because that isn't the only place that

carbon compounds are found. So where else do we find the carbon compounds?

Obviously, CO₂ is in the atmosphere as a (minor greenhouse) gas. It moves around. Atmospheric circulation means that it is blended with the rest of the gasses in the air on a very short term basis. Storms, jet stream circulations, and the general up and down movement of air masses rapidly mix all components of the air. As an example, a dust storm in China will carry some of the dust into North America in a matter of weeks. The emissions of a volcano, which can put huge quantities of CO₂, sulfur compounds, and dust higher into the atmosphere might be detectable after having been blown around the world twice in not much longer time than that. So for considerations of atmospheric emissions we can safely assume that the atmosphere will be homogenized.

Looking at the persistence of CO₂ in the atmosphere, the retention of an average molecule of CO₂ by the atmosphere is about 4½ years before it is trapped in a different carbon 'sink'.



A carbon sink is something that contains a carbon compound and keeps it from migrating to another form. Organic material is one such sink. Plants take in CO₂ and remove it from the atmosphere. Animals eat plants and remove the carbon compounds from the plant environment, keep some in their own tissues and return the rest to the atmosphere. All animals and decomposer life forms such as fungi are thus net contributors to the CO₂ content of the atmosphere. In the parlance of the current eco-political fad, they are greenhouse gas polluters.

There are other sinks that store carbon. One is the carbon turnover in the organic world. It is tied to the bulk average lifespan of carbon dioxide consumers (plants) which is balanced by the bulk average life span of CO₂ emitters. Let's approximate this interval at 100 years. Carbon

Night-blooming Cereus, at 4 A.M.

compounds just change form and location; carbon is neither created nor destroyed.

There are yet more carbon sinks besides the atmosphere and organic life. A large quantity of CO₂ is tied up in the Earth's oceans. As in the case of soda pop, CO₂ dissolves in water and most of the water on the globe is in the oceans. There is an equilibrium process where some gas is dissolved and some gas is released; the direction of net gas transfer is dependent on water temperatures and but it usually averages to zero. The gas dissolved at the ocean surface circulates and mixes with deep ocean water with the result that the CO₂ is spread throughout the water column. Eventually CO₂ returns to the surface where it once again it establishes equilibrium with the atmospheric CO₂.

Several points of further clarification on the ocean carbon processes should be made. Organic life forms in the ocean share the same dynamic interchange between them that land based life forms do. The turnover of the ocean circulation (the thermohaline circulation) is much slower, around a thousand years. The quantity of CO₂ tied up in the ocean is also much greater than that tied up in oceanic life forms. Yes, cold water will dissolve more CO₂ than warm water.

There are other carbon sinks on the planet. Rocks come in three main kinds: igneous, metamorphic, and sedimentary. Igneous rocks (such as granites and volcanics) and rocks derived from their melting have low carbon levels. Weathering (decomposition) of igneous and metamorphic rocks results in materials that are carried eventually carried out and deposited in the oceans. Many oceanic deposits create carbonate rocks because they contain CO₂ as part of their structure. This is especially true for limestones and dolomites.

There is a turnover, or if you prefer, a retention time in the CO₂ rock sink. Eventually the CO₂ will be recycled back into the atmosphere. The time period for rocks is much longer than that of other types of sinks on the planet, being on the order of millions of years.

The final carbon sink to consider is midway between the living and the dead. All life forms (plants, animals, bacteria, fungi, slime molds, and even viruses) contain carbon. As we have seen earlier, this carbon sink has a relatively short turnover and the overall effect approximates a stable condition. What happened during the millions of years of the Mesozoic period of the Earth's history is that carbon was removed from the short term environmental circulation through burial, eventually turning into coal. Elements are neither created nor destroyed. So in order to be removed, they first had to be IN the environment. Oil also holds carbon, though the sink cycle time for oil in nature is several million years; oil carbon eventually returns to the surface through natural channels.



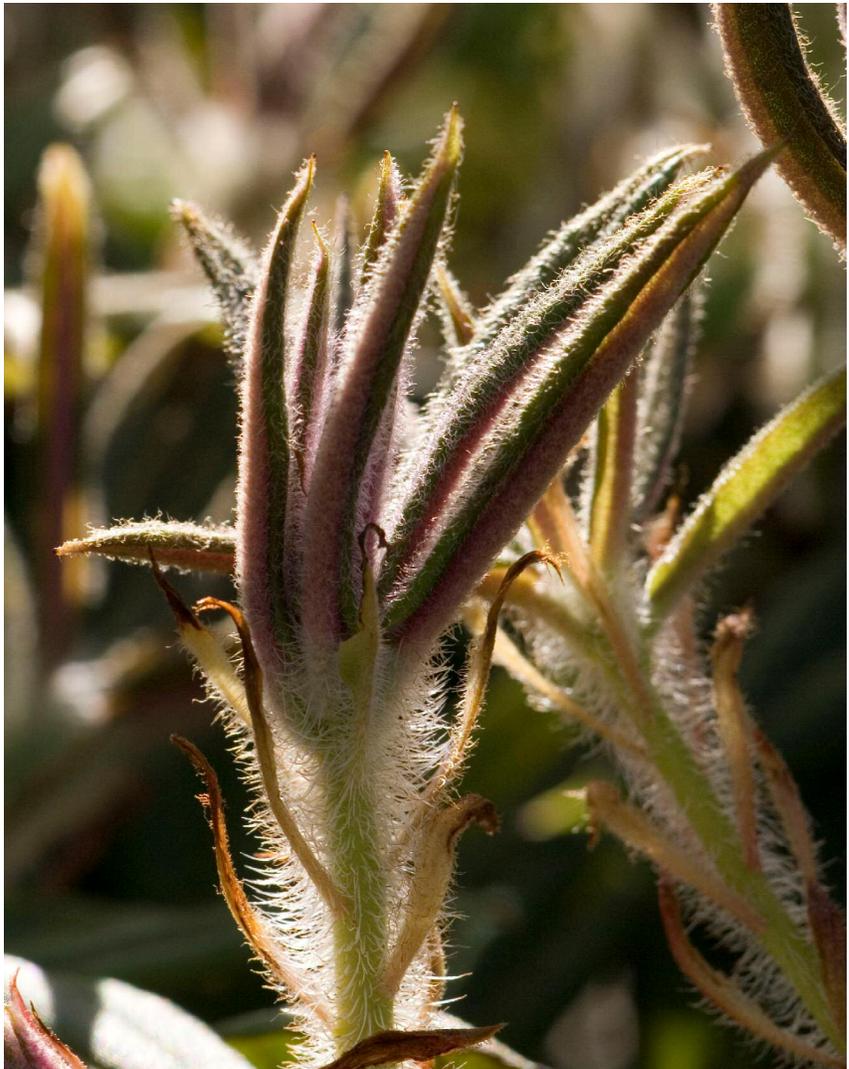
When we look at the length of the turnover and retention cycles we see immediately that only the rock cycle has a very long interval. This implies that before the massive coal deposits formed in the Mesozoic period, most of the carbon was already circulating in the environment. Some estimates of the atmospheric CO₂ concentration place the levels as high as 10 times the current levels. The formation of the coal and oil deposits would have reduced the atmospheric CO₂ unless another carbon sink provided a replacement. Similarly, the formation of carbonate rock also decreases the CO₂. But the equilibrium in these processes is very slow.

The environmental CO₂ levels would have been changed steadily during the Mesozoic period. Plants flourished in the much higher CO₂ content. As they were buried instead of being recycled in the ecology the overall carbon in the atmosphere would be reduced.

What happens if we instantly burn all of the oil and coal on the planet in one place (complete combustion with no harmful byproducts, of course)? The CO₂ levels would exceed levels at the start of the Mesozoic. Within 5 years the atmospheric concentration would be blended significantly. Plants would respond by multiplying, and animals would respond to the plant increase by increasing in turn. Before very long a new stability would develop with a small increase in the overall biomass and a slight adjustment in the atmospheric carbon levels. The oceanic sink would remove some CO₂, but on a much longer timescale, while its efficiency and carrying capacity would decrease if there were any increase in water temperature.

Now we are finished with the preliminaries; it's all over except the harsh cries and raucous shouts. We have asserted that the CO₂ levels that would result after all of the carbon tied up in oil and coal (and natural gas) was returned to the environment and its short-term carbon sinks would be similar to those at the start of Earth's Mesozoic period. So if the solar output levels now and during the Mesozoic were the same, the new stabilized world conditions should approach that at the beginning of the Mesozoic.

Let's look at some of the 'solutions' to global warming that are based on decreasing the increase of CO₂. It was reported that one province in Belgium intended to outlaw outdoor barbecuing because it increased carbon emissions (or alternatively to tax the



R. strigillosum, new growth

process and to use a petrol-burning helicopter to monitor compliance). This story was actually an April Fool's joke that took in many national talk shows and news commentators, mainly because it was so believable.

Two other governmental policy decisions in recent days that were not April Fool's jokes deserve mention. Washington State lawmakers are working on the approval of a new power plant based on coal gasification. One of the new plant's constraints is to be that the waste carbon produced is to be injected and trapped in rock strata so that it will not enter the environment for a long, long time. The other policy decision was enacted by San Francisco, soon to be followed by Los Angeles, Portland, and other places, is to ban the use of non-degradable plastic bags. Degradable ones will be approved for use. I hesitate to point out that non-degradable ("evil") plastic bags will remove carbon from the environment while environmentally friendly degradable ("good") paper bags release their carbon into the atmosphere.

New growth on R. strigillosum

As absurd as all this seems, it pales before another "solution". Al Gore brought the concept of carbon offsets, or carbon credits, to the forefront of American consciousness. The idea is that you pay someone else to not use their allocated quantity of CO₂ emissions but to transfer their use to you. You then can output both your own quantity of emissions as well as theirs while they stay in their state of undeveloped impoverishment. This process depends on the donor of the credits emitting less CO₂ than their 'share' and not cheating by emitting CO₂ quantities whose rights they have sold off. Even then, this does not reduce overall CO₂ emissions but only shifts it over to the rich who can afford to (and

will) emit more. This says nothing about the workings of the agencies who mediate (and enforce compliance with?) the sale of such credits. Shades of selling indulgences to the rich.

By now you should also be able to detect the fallacy of planting trees to reduce CO₂ levels and thereby prevent global warming. We aren't discussing the link between global warming and CO₂ levels. Remember how a grass or a tree lives. It removes CO₂ from the air and incorporates it into plant tissues. When it dies it decomposes and the CO₂ either returns to the air or is incorporated into another living organism which delays the gas cycle by several years. So unless there is an increase in the total biomass, plants and animals have a combined long term zero effect on the amount of CO₂ in the atmosphere.

WWW.CO2science.org reports on studies that indicate that elevated CO₂ content increases plant growth. Unfortunately, the hard data is on the subscription side of their site



R. strigillosum, after a light frost

For more information on global warming and the politics of the environment, link to www.icecap.us One of their contributors is George Taylor, the former Oregon State climatologist, who spoke at our Chapter meeting in 2004

---Luvrt

[return to index](#)

Peter Kendall has several pages of his photographs in the 2007 summer issue of the ARS journal. If you weren't here with us in January '07, perusing your journal is a way to assuage the guilt of missing that meeting.

PETER KENDALL IN THE ROCKY MOUNTAINS

By Kathy Van Veen

In January of 2007 Peter Kendall gave us a look at the Canadian Rockies, where he had gone the last two summers to hike and to study the geology and the wildflowers. He came back with some gorgeous photo slides which he shared with us. When I say gorgeous, I mean it. His pictures are really good - the kind you see on calendars and in coffee table books. He really should collaborate on a book using these pictures! The one of the rosy red sunrise over the mountains was stunning. He admitted to running out of the lodge half dressed to get the shot!

The mountains of the Cordillera are made of sedimentary rock of various types that was faulted up and eroded down several times. The Front Range came about as a result of a thrust fault and he had a picture that showed the fault clearly. The results of glacial erosion showed in U-shaped valleys lots of rock rubble, bowl shaped cirques, arêtes (knife edged ridges where cirques meet back to back), and tarns which are lakes in the cirques. The amount of fine eroded rock particles (rock flour) determines the blueness of these lakes.

He (and we) saw larches and spruce trees, wild flowers such as forget-me-nots, Indian Paint Brush, buttercups and penstemons. There were also ptarmigans, golden eagles, and chipmunks.

But one of the most memorable moments of the presentation was when Peter said that on the



Lem's Cameo

border between Banff and Jasper National Parks there is a place called the hydrographic apex. All water flows out from there and in one act a man can contribute to three oceans: The Arctic through the Athabaskan River, the Atlantic through the Saskatchewan River and Hudson's Bay, and the Pacific via the Columbia River. Fascinating!

Aren't you sorry you missed it? Actually there is a second chance. Next year Peter plans to go farther north into the St. Elias Mountains in Alaska. He will report back with more pictures and interesting facts. I can't wait.

--*Kathy*

[return to index](#)

OVERSEAS RHODODENDRONIZING

Looking for a vacation trip next summer? Consider visiting the Royal Botanic Garden at Edinburg, Scotland.

The Scottish Rhododendron Society is celebrating its silver jubilee by hosting, in conjunction with the R.B.G.E., the **2008 International Rhododendron Conference** from Wednesday May 7th through Sunday May 11th, 2008.

Like any good event, there are pre-convention tours to notable gardens in the region. These are scheduled from May 3 through May 6.

Contact person for registration and information is
Marjory McFarlane, Conference Registrar,
14 Loaning Crescent
Peebles, Tweeddale, Scotland EH45 9JR
email: Marjory.mcfarlane@gmail.com
website: www.scottishrhodos.co.uk

TUALATIN VALLEY ARS SUMMER PICNIC

The TVARS Chapter Summer picnic and cutting exchange will be held on Sunday, **August 12th** at the Mapes residence at 1:00 pm. The club will provide soft drinks, hamburgers and hot-dogs with all the fixin's plus plates and plastic ware. Executive chef, Ron Mapes, will prepare the burnt offerings. Attendees should bring their favorite dessert, salad, side dish, or chips etc. to compliment the meal. For those inclined, BYOB to share with the chef.

Please, also bring your comfortable folding chairs to insure a seat at the tables. Shade will be provided and tours of the various blackberry patches will be included. Feel free to bring a machete or mattock.

Of course, besides the excellent meal we will share, we will hold our traditional post-feast cutting exchange. Please bring a selection of your favorite, unusual or latest rhododendron cuttings. (The more the merrier.) I know it may be a bit of a bother, but if you can include your name along with the plant name it is good to know the source of the cutting after memory fades, sometimes within hours. A dash of water with three cuttings in a plastic sandwich bag helps keep them fresh and cool until they reach home.

A quickie round-table tutorial will be offered on propagation techniques as a refresher or as confidence reinforcement. Other chapter members, friends and prospective members are especially welcomed.

Ron Mapes, (503-312-2879)
Self-proclaimed Executive Chef
25185 NW Svea Dr., Hillsboro, OR 97124

[return to index](#)

I caught two root weevils *in flagrante delicto*
in the yard this last weekend.
Whenever two are gathered together there are certain to be more.
The future of the species is assured.

SLUGS ON PARADE, WITH HITCH-HIKERS



There were three different pairs of slugs crawling around in the grass in one night in early August. I watched each pair travel nose to tail for as far as three feet. One pair even took a dip into the bug catcher pond.

Top left picture is the mite on a slug. Lower picture is mites on a beetle these mites are 4 times larger than the slug ones



[Return to index](#)



Examining the pictures on the computer screen afterwards showed some mites traveling on the outside of the snail. These mites are smaller than the head of a pin and usually move very fast for their size.

This slug was not an abnormal conveyor to the mitey. On the next night I watched four more slugs, all of whom also transported mites.

On the right is a picture of mites investigating the open pneumostoma on the side of the slug's head. The slug is possibly a *Limax maximum*, a Great Grey slug (locally called a leopard slug).



CHAPTER OFFICERS

(All area codes are 503 unless noted)

President: Irv Snyder 509-427-7738

Vice President: Jan Snyder 509-427-7738

Secretary: Carol McCarthy 245-3533

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

CRYSTAL SPRINGS RHODODENDRON GARDEN

Bob MacArthur 360-256-2522

Beverly Watkin 503-244-0537

CECIL & MOLLY SMITH GARDEN

Ginny Mapes 503-647-2896

PORTLAND CHAPTER WEB SITE

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

Membership chair...Ray Girton

Chapter Newsletter

Rhododendron News is the newsletter of the Portland Chapter and is mailed by non-profit class postage Portland, OR. *Rhododendron News* is sent to current members in good standing. Articles may be copied or reprinted with credit given to the author(s) and *Rhododendron News*. Views expressed herein do not imply Portland Chapter or ARS endorsement. Staff:

Luurt Nieuwenhuis managing editor

Vicki Molina editor in chief

Jeanette Nieuwenhuis copy editor

Loni Welsh hardcopy printing

Maria Stewart hardcopy mailings

Newsletter articles

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

E-mail contacts:

Luurt Nieuwenhuis editor@rhodies.org

Vicki Molina: enforcer@rhodies.org

Jeanette Nieuwenhuis copy@rhodies.org

kudus@rhodies.org for compliments

kudzus@rhodies.org for gripes

ideas@rhodies.org for future newsletter ideas

for newsletter articles via snail mail, send to:

Luurt Nieuwenhuis, Managing Editor

P.O. Box 2353

Vancouver, WA, 98668-2353

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

All Saints Episcopal Church

at the corner of SE 40th and Woodstock

(a little east of the Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden) in Portland, OR

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 September through April (but not in January)

at 7:15 p.m. meeting starts at 7:45 p.m. - at the:

First Baptist Church

177 NE Lincoln Street

Hillsboro, OR.

Phone: Ron & Ginny Mapes 503-647-2896

Email: 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 to find out where.

Vireya Vine Newsletter

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

E White Smith,

% Bovees Nursery

1737 SW Coronado

Portland, OR 97219

4 issues a year. Send \$10 to join - that's one ten dollar bill that lasts forever or until you want to send another to keep it company.

info@bovees.com

[return to index](#)