



## **2023 FALL WESTERN REGIONAL CONFERENCE**

### **FLORENCE COASTAL SPICE**

**OCTOBER 19-21**

Florence Events Center  
715 Quince St., Florence OR

**Thursday, Oct. 19** – An evening of Renewing old Acquaintances and making New Friends over Local Wines, Beer, or Soft Beverages.

#### **Friday, Oct. 20**

- 8:00 – 9:00 Greeting  
Plant Sale and Silent auction
- 9:00 – 9:45 Jack Olson – My Favorite  
Flowers
- 10:00 – 10:45 Sandi Jensen – Fuchsias
- 11:00 – 11:45 Day Farrald – Geriatric Hybrids  
- Around Forever
- 11:45 – 1:15 Lunch, Plant Sales, and Silent  
Auction
- 1:15 – 2:00 Mike Bamford, Eastern VP  
Deciduous Azaleas
- 2:15 – 3:00 Augie Bergman – Rhody Wood
- 3:15 – 4:00 Will Clawson – Rhododendron  
Species Botanical Garden
- 4:00 – 6:00 Plant Sale and  
Silent Auction
- 5:00 – 6:00 Social Hour/Wine, Beer, Pop
- 6:00 – 7:00 Dinner
- 7:00 – 8:00 Log Cabin Nursery – Ops by  
Lorrie Zeller

#### **Saturday, Oct. 21**

- 8:00 – 9:00 Greeting  
Plant Sale and Silent auction
- 9:00 – 9:45 Jack Olson – Foliage and  
Buds
- 10:00 – 10:45 Mark Akimoff - Bulbs
- 11:00 – 11:45 Mike Bones – Siuslaw Chapter  
Shows and Gardens
- 11:45 – 1:15 Lunch, Plant Sales, and Silent  
Auction
- 1:15 – 2:00 Linda Derkach, ARS Pres. – Your  
Chapter and you
- 2:15 – 3:00 Ryan Contreras - Hybridizing
- 3:15 – 4:00 Atsuko Gibson – RSBG.  
Expeditions to Japan
- 4:00 – 5:00 Silent Auction
- 4:00 – 6:00 Plant Sale
- 5:00 – 6:00 Social Hour/Wine, Beer, Pop
- 6:00 – 7:00 Dinner
- 7:00 – 8:00 Richard Flavell – Big Leaf  
Species
- 8:00 -9:00 Purchase & pick up Silent  
Auction items

## CONFERENCE SPEAKERS

**Mark Akimoff** is a professional horticulturist from Salem, Oregon. Mark received a degree in ornamental horticulture at Oregon State University and operates illahe Rare Plants, a specialty nursery in the Willamette Valley growing unusual flower bulbs, Alpines, Rock Garden and xeric from all around the world.

**Mike Bamford** is Eastern VP of the ARS. A member of the Azalea Chapter for 12 years, Mike promotes the use of azaleas in landscaping throughout Georgia.

**Augie Bergman** was a Member of the Eugene Chapter for many years. Woodworking is his passion and turning Rhody wood has become his art.

**Lorrie Bolivar** is manager of Log Cabin Nursery, bought by Terry Henderson in 1978 as a produce farm. Converting to nursery stock by planting 2000 seedling Exbury Azaleas, the nursery now raises rhododendrons and azaleas. Lorrie Bolivar assumed the task of maintaining a smooth operation in 2020 and has expanded into perennials.

**Mike Bones** has been a member of the Siuslaw Chapter for over 52 years serving in many capacities, encouraging membership, and touting the beauty and benefits of our favorite genus. He has been instrumental in increasing membership consistently to around 100. He received the Silver Medal in 2022.

**Will Clawson** is Horticulturist and Assistant Curator at RSBG, where he has worked since 2019. Work experiences include botanical field work for the US Forest Service in Juneau, and prairie management and restoration in northwest Minnesota and North Dakota for the Nature Conservancy.

**Ryan Contreras** is Professor of Horticulture involved in the Ornamental Breeding Program at Oregon State University specializing in sterile non-indigenous plants to prevent foreign infestation

**Linda Derkach** has been Secretary of the American Rhododendron Society for 9 years and is familiar with the Society's inner workings. She is always promoting the Society, exploring ways to improve it.

**Day Farrald** was introduced to the genus rhododendron in 1968 when he moved to Oregon. The many variations of color, leaf and plant size and texture were mesmerizing, so, the only reasonable thing to do was join the Eugene Chapter of the ARS. That's where he met Harold Greer and soon went to work for him. By 1983 he was elected president of the Chapter and had the pleasure of meeting many national and international icons through him. He is currently president of the Siuslaw Chapter.

**Richard Flavell** Grew up in the UK and, since 1988, has been a science professor at Yale where he studies the immune system. You can find a lot more about him on Google scholar. He has grown rhododendrons since the 1980s and is an active hybridizer, particularly generating big leaf rhododendron hybrids that are hardy enough for coastal New England, or inland Oregon. Since 2013/14, he has gardened in Florence Oregon and has built an impressive collection of newly discovered species as well as his own hybrids.

**Atsuko Gibson** is the Nursery Manager/Assistant Curator at the Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden. She has been with the RSBG since 2010. Originally from Japan, Atsuko has a degree in horticulture from the University of Arkansas and has interned at the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh. She propagates species rhododendrons from seeds, cuttings, and grafts while managing the 2-acre nursery at the RSBG.

**Sandi Jensen** has been growing fuchsias for 45 years in the Coast range of the Willamette Valley. Hopefully, you can leave her program with more than the memory of some pretty pictures and be excited to grow your own. Sandi is also well versed in Rhododendron culture, lending her expertise in classifying and keying entries in our local shows.

Linda is the current President of the American Rhododendron Society.

**Jack Olson** has been growing rhododendrons since 1963, when he purchased R. Britannia. He has shown and judged rhododendrons since joining the ARS as a life member. He has been growing rhododendrons from seed for over twenty-five years

and registered ten plants as of this writing. His Rocky Knoll Farm Nursery also grows podophyllum and arisaema and other perennials. Jack is in high demand to speak at Chapter meetings and is currently District 4 Director.

### Visit Our Member Gardens

Exploring local gardens in the non-blooming season affords us the opportunity to enjoy the many unique facets of our favorite genus. After the flowers are gone, foliage and growth are it. Sometimes demure and unimposing, other times majestic and awe inspiring, this is the chance for the leaves, buds, and bark to be in the spotlight. A few of our members would like to extend an invitation to drop by and meander through their gardens and enjoy the show.

#### FLAVELL GARDEN WEST

5306 Boy Scout Road

#### MOBRAY GARDENS

88010 Woodlands Drive

#### THE PINNOCK GARDEN

89697 Hwy 101 N.

#### THE PRCHAL GARDEN

5043 S. Jetty Road

### Local Hotels Offering Group Rates

#### River House Inn

Room Rates: Off River: \$119.00/night On River: \$159/night

Group Code: Rhody2023

Location: 1202 Bay St, Florence, OR 97439

Website: [www.riverhouseflorence.com](http://www.riverhouseflorence.com)

Phone Number (541) 997-3933

Last day to book for Group Rate: 9/30/2023

#### Old Town Inn

Room Rates: \$109.00/night

Group Code: Rhody2023

Location: 170 US-101, Florence, OR 97439

Website: [www.old-town-inn.com](http://www.old-town-inn.com)

Phone Number 541-997-7131

Last day to book for Group Rate: 8/30/2023

#### Best Western Pier Point Inn

Room Rates: 2 Queen Beds 10/19: \$170.99, 10/20-21: \$175.49

1 King Bed 10/19: \$170.99, 10/20-21: \$175.49

Group Code: Conf# 1189

Location: 85625 Highway 101, Florence, Oregon 97439

Website: [www.bestwestern.com](http://www.bestwestern.com)

Phone Number (541) 997-7191

### Local Hotels

#### Driftwood Shores

88416 1st Ave, Florence, OR 97439

541-997-8263 [Local]

800-422-5091 [Toll Free]

Direct beach access from rooms.

#### Quality Inn

2475 Hwy 101, Florence, OR, 97439

(541) 305-4414

Convenient midtown location.

### Campgrounds and RV Parks

#### Port of Siuslaw Campground and Marina

100 Harbor St

Florence, OR 97439

Phone Number: 541-997-3040

#### Heceta Beach RV Park

4636 Heceta Beach Rd.

Florence, Oregon

(541) 997-7664

#### Thousand Trails South Jetty RV Campground

Closed · Opens 9 AM Fri

Phone: (541) 9978

