

Rhododendrons to bloom at early flower show

Get a sneak peek and scent of freshly blooming rhododendrons at the Early Rhododendron Flower Show April 16 and 17. The flower show, held each year by the Siuslaw Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society (ARS), takes place one month before the annual Rhododendron Festival Rhody Show, which takes place this year May 19-22.

Both flower shows are held at the Florence Events Center and are judged. The aim is to educate and introduce the public to as many varieties of rhododendrons as possible. The show is open to the public – without charge – as soon as judging is

completed.

Either of the rhododendron flower shows is a great place to find what flowers would look great in your garden and view varieties of both rhododendrons and azaleas from around the world. The Siuslaw Chapter also has an outdoor plant sale during both shows. Many selections of rhododendrons and azaleas are available for a reasonable price.

Doors open at noon to the public for this year's Early Rhody Show on Saturday and remain open until 5 p.m. On Sunday, viewing will be available from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.



Community Chorus to include special guests for spring concert

The Siuslaw High School Chamber Choir, the Encore Dancers, CROW Kids and the Flotones will all be special

guest performers at the May 1 Community Chorus of Florence performance.

The spring concert, titled "Irving Berlin Meets Uncle Sam," will include a number of patriotic songs as well as old favorites that people enjoy singing or humming along with.

Irving Berlin wrote hundreds of songs, many becoming major hits, which made him a "legend" before he turned 30. During his 60-year career, Berlin wrote an estimated 1,500 songs, including the scores

for 19 Broadway shows and 18 Hollywood films, with his songs nominated eight times for Academy Awards.

The concert will be held Sunday, May 1, beginning at 2 p.m. at the Florence Events Center.

Tickets are \$10 for adults, with attendees age 18 and younger admitted free.

Tickets can be purchased at the FEC box office or by calling 541-997-1994. Visit www.eventcenter.org.

Poets to participate in FRAA Poetry Fest

The Florence Regional Arts Alliance (FRAA) will present the Big Wave Poetry Fest on May 7. The Spoken Word Poetry Contest begins at 6 p.m. with as many as 40 poets "throwing down" their best original rhymes and stanzas in poems lasting up to 3 minutes.

Top prize is \$500, along with \$250 for second place and \$100 of third place.

A special youth poetry contest will be held at 2 p.m., with the winner receiving \$100, \$50 for second place and \$25 for third place.

For more information, visit the FRAA website at fraaoregon.org.

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