

Hootman to speak at next Rhody Society meeting

Plant explorer, worldwide guest speaker and Director of the Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden in Federal Way, Wash., Steve Hootman will be the speaker at the Tuesday, Feb. 20 meeting of the Florence Rhododendron Society.

Hootman's presentation will focus on his exploration of rhododendrons over the past 20 years.

His observations will include: the excitement of finding a new plant that has never been described by anyone else; the steep mount terrain of the Himalayan mountains with drop offs of over a 100 feet; having to fight off the elements of nature in down pours that one would think would never stop; leaches dropping from the forest around you; crossing rope bridges with raging rivers far below; having to bribe your

way into remote areas with the local governments and the locals who have never seen a westerner before— it all will come to light in what is sure to be an informative and fascinating presentation.

See where the majority of rhododendrons come from in their native habitat. There will be rare and unusual plants to buy from his expeditions at this meeting.

Join members of the Siuslaw Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society for a fun evening beginning at 6:30 with coffee, cookies and camaraderie, followed by the meeting at 7 p.m.

Meetings are held at the Presbyterian Church of the Siuslaw, 3996 Highway 101.

For more information, call president Mike Bones at 541-997-3082 or email him at rhodies@charter.net.

Big Wave Poetry to hold Love Gone Wrong contest

Florence Regional Arts Alliance (FRAA) will host the annual Florence Big Wave Love Gone Wrong Contest this Friday, Feb. 16. The event is open to original poetry, prose, storytelling and song.

Performance time limited to four minutes, and winners will be picked by ballot vote from the audience. Former prize-winning work will not be admitted.

First Prize is \$100, second prize \$50 and third prize \$25. Admission is \$10 but free for Siuslaw junior and senior high school students.

Lane Community College Students will get a discount of \$5. Registration starts at 6 p.m., with the contest beginning at 6:30 p.m.

Refreshments will be available. FRAA is located at 120 Maple Street.

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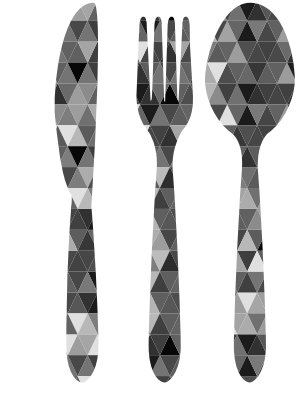
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