

AMERICAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

Eureka Chapter

The next meeting
Thursday, May 27 — 7:30 p.m.
First Baptist Church
422 Del Norte St., Eureka

Pre-Meeting No Host Dinner
Thursday May 27—5:15
Casa Blanca, 1432 2nd Street
To assure space please call Nelda for a
reservation, 443-8049



May 2004

SPRING SHOW A BIG SUCCESS

By any measure, the 32nd annual Truss Show and Plant Sale was a huge success.

Great weather, 224 trusses and other entries, lots of plants sold, lots of ribbons handed out.

In the race for silver, **Sue Tosten** was the clear winner. She claimed both the Best Yellow and Best of Show trophies with a beautiful, almost perfect truss of R. 'Horizon Monarch'; won the Best Azalea Spray ('Carolyn Gable,' said Sue; not, said the judges, but a winner just the same) and the Best Lavender (R. 'Ted's Orchid Sunset') trophies and shared the People's Choice award (the azalea spray).

Dr. Hal Braafladt and **Don Wallace** each claimed three trophies, and **President Tom Martin** won two. **Dr. Braafladt** won Best Photographic Display with a photo of R. 'Patricia Marie,' Best Species Truss or Spray with r. *dalhousiae* and Best Rhododendron Plant with a specimen of r. *yakushmanum*.

Wallace won the Best Maddenii Truss or Spray trophy with a truss of R. 'Southern Cloud' and the Judges' Special Award with an orange deciduous azalea spray. He also got the Sweepstakes Trophy for the most points by an exhibitor.

Runners-up for the Sweepstakes award were **Sue Tosten** and **Tom Martin**, followed by **Jerry Reynolds** and Dr. Braafladt.

President Tom's winners were Best Large Named Pink Truss for R. 'Mrs. Furnival' and the Best Dwarf Truss with an unknown truss.

Nova Cramer won the Best Rhododendron Spray trophy with a beautiful spray of R. 'Lady de Rothschild' and shared the People's Choice award with **Sue Tosten**. She also joined the Chapter during the show.

Other trophy winners include: **Dee Daneri**, Best R. 'Naomi' Truss or Spray (R. 'Naomi Venus'); **Bruce and Nelda Palmer**, Best Azalea Plant ('Silver Sword'); **Jerry Reynolds**, Best Red Hybrid Truss (R. 'Taurus'); **Lynn Sarty**, Best Flower Arrangement ("Circus Picnic"); and **Ryan Scott**, Best Fragrant Rhododendron (R. 'Southern Cloud').

The 224 exhibits were entered by 23 different people.

The Chapter ended the show with a net profit. Income from sales at the show, the raffle and sponsors totaled a little over \$8,000 with expenses of about \$6,600. That leaves \$1,435 -- subject to audit and corrections as June put it -- for the Chapter's bank account.

Nelda Palmer and **Molly Egel**, show co-chairs, did a superb job getting everything organized. There were many volunteers who showed up over the three days (Friday was a work day to set up everything) to help with getting things ready, assisting with the judging and plant sale and serving as general go-fers.

Our judges -- **Phil and Lucy Johnson** from Fort Bragg and **Dave and Janet Shepherd** from Florence, Ore. -- handed out lots of ribbons and trophies in a relatively short time, then spent the afternoon touring local gardens with Nelda.

It was certainly a far cry from last year's rain, wind and hail.

Reported by: Jerry Reynolds

Fresh from the editor's mail box...Rhodoholic Humor????
Question? "How do you catch a wabbit?"
Answer. "Unique up on him."
Signed: Grhody Jokes

Our own Bruce Palmer has an article in the Spring 2004 Journal of the American Rhododendron Society. On page 71 you will read a fascinating article about one of the more contemporary plant hunters, Joseph Rock (1884- 199962). Congratulations, Bruce

Program May 27th “RHODO-101”

Over the course of the next year the Eureka Chapter will concentrate a portion of each meeting to the care, culture and history of growing Rhododendrons and Azaleas. The May 27 meeting will be a refresher course on the plants we know, or think we know, and love, the Rhododendron and Azalea. Every year at our show and sale we answer many questions from the public about the culture and care of Rhododendron and Azaleas and pass out hundreds of *Care Guides*.

What is it a lepidote? An elepidote? When should I fertilize and with what? May I prune? When? Where? How? Why? Why do you call Azaleas Rhododendrons?

Program Highlights

- This month we will take an in depth including a look at indumentum and scales (lepidote or elepidote) with scientific microscopes to be provided by Bruce Palmer and Frank Bickner.
- We will learn the correct way to prune and why to prune.
- We'll have a conversation about fertilizing; why, when, where and how much.
- We will learn how to plant and where to plant your new rhodos and azaleas.
- If we miss anything, **ASK!**

Plant Swap...Bring seeds, plants cutting, seedlings for exchange with the group. We always have fun swapping Ajuga for squash seedlings, or Poppy seeds for those extra azalea rooted cuttings you just don't have space for. Come enjoy the flea market of plants.

President Tom's Report...

O K, so what's with this weather? Sunny and warm. One or two inches of rain instead of the ten we had a year ago April. And we had a spectacular weekend for the Rhody Show & Sale. I think global warming just hit Humboldt County. Its time to install some of those tall sprinklers. My garden hose probably won't cut it this year. In fact it gave me fair warning when it popped apart at the coupler this morning and gave me a shower. Or maybe that was just a message from Aileen.

The deer keep eating my R diaprepes 'Gargantua', which is really strange, because they usually just nibble a little on the Azaleas and then head straight for the goodies. This is the second one. All that's left is a single stalk, like an overripe asparagus shoot.

The Noyo tour was a real treat this year. I got lost in a couple of wild and wonderful Rhody Patches and saw what may be the tallest King George in captivity. I took advantage of the opportunity and sprinkled deer nip on some of Peter Schick's best trusses, to avoid the chagrin of watching him 'cart all of the Eureka silver home' again. All in all, it was a productive weekend.

My compliments to Nelda and Molly and their super crew. Friday, along about three o'clock, I thought the tent was going to blow away and that would be the end of this year's Rhody Show, but no, it turned out to be one of the best. For the uninitiated, let me define 'best'. According to Webster's, 'best' is a relative term that is essentially inversely proportional to the number of plants left after a plant sale. I would also like to commend Bruce Palmer for giving me the shirt off his back. Thanks Bruce. That reminds me, I also ended up with someone's nice blue Lands End jacket. It fits great. Take your time contacting me.

One last note. Did anyone else notice the skill and dexterity employed by the nominating committee in rounding up a slate of officers. It just goes to show what planning and forethought will do. I for one have never seen Tim move so fast during a refreshment break.

I'm looking forward to meeting all you garden geeks at the Rhody 101 clinic/meeting on May 27. Tom Martin (whose bell is still missing)

Just in from the Noyo Chapter show, May 1st...**Phil and Lucy Johnson** won the **Best of Show** with their truss of **Rh. "Patricia Marie"** a huge fragrant, white perfect bell truss. "Patricia Marie" was hybridized by our own **Hal Braafladt**. Congratulations to Lucy and Phil and to Hal as well.



The Spring Member's Garden Tour arranged by Don Wallace was a big success despite rain. Above left, Bruce Palmer, Hal and Denise Braafladt, Mel Williams and Jean Timmerman enjoy the Eagles garden. Above right, Paula Trinoskey, Hal and Denise, Barney's son, Eris McCarthy, Barney Elking and Nelda Palmer gather for a tour of the Younggreen garden.



Tim Walsh shares garden stories with garden host Gary Eagles and member Eris McCarthy in the Eagles garden. George and Linda Benzel and (in the black hat) Ellie Gaynor gather with other tourists in the Younggreen garden.



Bay Street garden hosts the Mullins share their beautiful garden and restored chicken house with Nelda Palmer. The Eureka Chapter Garden Tours are free and great fun, we end the day with a potluck. Members are welcome to bring family and guests. We thank all those brave hosts who let us peek behind their fences and travel their dirt drives!

Eureka Chapter is published monthly except during July and August. Submissions from members are encouraged and should be mailed to June Walsh, Bulletin Editor, 2050 Irving Drive, Eureka, CA 95503-7022. Membership information and applications are available from Bruce Palmer, Membership Chair PO Box 295, Curten CA 95534-0295. Eureka Chapter is a member of the Humboldt Botanical Gardens Foundation, Eureka, Calif, and The Rhododendron Species Foundation, Federal Way, Wash. Eureka Chapter is a chapter of the American Rhododendron Society.

Eureka Chapter

Eureka Chapter/American Rhododendron Society
2050 Irving Drive
Eureka, CA 95503-7022

Minutes...The April 22, 2004 meeting was called to order at approximately 7:45pm after another great dinner with a group of members. Tom Martin used that old bell again while calling together the meeting, (he really needs a new bell !). Members, Dee Daneri, The Nolans, Jerry Reynolds, Nelda and Bruce Palmer and Don Wallace shared a beautiful assortment of trusses. 29 members were present. Don Wallace described the door prize and auction plants. Treasurer, Tim Walsh reported \$5,920.78 in the account. The account was down due to the recent costs of the flower show that is almost here. Show chair, Nelda Palmer announced Don Wallace and Katherine Weeks are in this month's Sunset Magazine. Famous people are among us. Congrats to you both, what an honor. Our Bruce Palmer made the Eureka paper also, with a nice write up and picture. Membership may be looking up a bit, a big effort has been made to get more people to come to the meetings and participate. The show is coming along great, the weather is even going to be perfect, (June Walsh promises)!. Future programs were discussed by Don Wallace. A short goodie break was taken. Guest speaker, and member, our very own, Dee Daneri is going to give a slide presentation about "Garden Geeks" on her trip to England. Many gardens were shown with a number of "Garden Geeks", really cute people. The Holland bulbs were fantastic, millions of tulips that were breathtaking. Thank you Dee for sharing your travel friends and some of your great experiences touring beautiful gardens. Nominations for officers were discussed. Thank you so much for all that volunteered for a position. It will be a great group of officers next year. Don Wallace demonstrated how to prepare your trusses for the show. Jerry Reynolds had a great collection to learn from. They were all nearly perfect. Jerry contributed advice for how to prepare to win that ribbon or trophy. Good luck to all who show a truss in the show. A short talk went over the proper way to tag your entry. Vern Trinoskey won the door prize. Raffle winners were: Molly, Jerry, Mary Alice, Phil, Denise, and Tim. The auction plant was won by Charlie who just kept bidding against himself, thank you all for participating. The meeting was adjourned by President, Tom Martin at 9:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Debby Brantley, Secretary

Secretaries note: There will be a small treat for all those who bring a FRIEND to the May 27th meeting, Rhododendron 101. Relatives will count