

Eureka Chapter

OCTOBER 2004

On the Web @ <http://www.redwoodmatrix.com>

The next meeting
Thursday, October 28 — 7:30 p.m.
First Baptist Church
422 Del Norte St., Eureka



The pre-meeting no-host dinner will be at the Sea Grill at 5:15 Thursday October 28.

Sea Grill is at 316 E Street in Old Town Eureka. Please be sure to call before Thursday morning Nelda to make your reservation 707-443-8049

MIKE BONES: Rhodies, Chapters and Membership



Mike Bones, District 4 Representative, will share his knowledge of Rhododendrons, and Society Membership growth at the Eureka Chapter meeting Thursday October 28th at the First Baptist Church in Eureka.

Mike has been growing Rhododendrons for 42 years and has run Bones' Rhododendron Nursery for 25 years. After retirement from his full time career of 30 years in the Oregon State Parks system he recently got a part time job at the Indian casino in his home town of Florence, Oregon. His stipulation for working at the casino as greeter was that he wear his signature shorts, being very proud of his legs.

Mike is the Membership Committee chair for the American Rhododendron Society. Membership is one of the subjects of his program. He will talk about how the Siuslaw Chapter in Southern coastal Oregon has grown and the interest in Rhododendrons has grown with the Chapter.

Mike will talk about Rhododendrons in an uncommonly entertaining and educational way. He will also bring some choice plants to auction. Mike says, "...bring your checkbooks or cash as we don't take American Express". Mike's auction skills are legendary so be careful not to scratch your nose or blink!

Mike is shown above with Tim Walsh, Eureka Chapter and American Rhododendron Society Treasurer, at the Western Regional Conference in Hilo, Hawaii where their Aloha shirts were regular Society business attire.

WORD OF THE MONTH, by Bruce Palmer

This paragraph begins a monthly explanation of a term or terms related to the Rhododendron world. This month's entry is longer than it will be in future. June suggested "macrophyllum", the species name for our local native Rhody. Let's start with the genus name "Rhododendron". It's from the Greek "Rhodon" for rose and "dendron" for tree. Note that the genus name is always capitalized. When a genus name is abbreviated, it is always abbreviated with one letter only, in this case "R". The species name "macrophyllum" is derived from the Greek "macron" meaning long (but it can mean large also) and "phyllon" Greek for leaf. There are lots of Rhodies that have longer and larger leaves but ours keeps its designation because it was named first. The species name is never capitalized, even when it is named after a person or a geographical entity.

Bruce Palmer is Professor Emeritus in the Community College System of the University of Hawaii. He taught various introductory biology courses at Maui Community College from 1968 until 1993. He was also Dean of Instruction at the college for six years. Prior to moving to Maui, he taught science and math courses at Ferndale High School from 1960-67. Bruce and Nelda have been members of the chapter since 1994.

THE GREAT FALL RHODODENDRON GLEN CLEANUP

Saturday, October 9 was the semi-annual cleanup day for the Chapter. The Rhododendron Glen in Sequoia Park in Eureka gets worked over periodically by the Chapter. The Rhododendron Glen, which is beyond the duck pond, was planted by Dr. Hal Braafladt and our predecessor club, the Dr. Richard Anderson Rhododendron Club. Ten members and a guest, Tim's cousin Ken Bareilles, Jr., met at 11 a.m. at the Glen. Ellie and Jim Gayner, Tom Martin, Nelda and Bruce Palmer, Gayle Teter, June and Tim Walsh and Abby and Jim Wasetis (Abby is Dr. Richard Anderson's daughter) toiled mightily for about three hours. All except Tim, that is, who was the official heavy equipment operator with his beloved Cub Cadet. We managed to get the glen itself cleaned out thoroughly and to make some inroads into the surrounding blackberry and Crocosmia thickets. Tim, Nelda and Jim Gaynor even got most of the muck scummed out of the former fountain. If we keep up at this rate, we might have the area back to what it looked like in the old photos when Tim's cousin and Ken Bareilles' grandfather, Dr. Jack Walsh, built a cottage there; now sadly just the fireplace remains. Somewhere along the way we had lunch together and gave the machinery and tools a break. We had a great time and accomplished a lot. Those of you who missed it will certainly have other chances to participate in the future (hint, hint). See pictures on Page 4.

Submitted by Bruce Palmer

The Rhododendron Year-October and November

Collect seed, spread compost mulch. Use your favorite root weevil preventative. Take cuttings, trap moles, clean greenhouse, spray fungicide. General winter cleanup.

This is an excellent time for bench grafting. Don Wallace will present the latest edition of Rhodo 101 at the October meeting describing how you, too, may learn to successfully propagate your favorite Rhododendrons.

ARS EUREKA CHAPTER MEETING MINUTES – SEPTEMBER 23, 2004

The first chapter meeting of the 2004-2005 year, held at the First Baptist Church in Eureka, was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by President Tom Martin. Thirty-two members and three guests were present. Don Wallace introduced his guest, Annie Buffington. Minutes were approved as presented in the newsletter. In Tim Walsh's absence, Bruce Palmer reported a current total balance of \$10,169.45, up \$2,434.15 from last year. Tom reported that the Walshes and Nelda catered a dinner for the Heather Society's annual conference at Dee Daneri's house. Net proceeds were \$303 for the chapter. Tom announced that the board agreed unanimously to donate \$100 each to the Heather Society, to the ARS General Fund and to Paul Anderson for his District Director travel costs.

Under old business, Nelda Palmer announced that the Sequoia Park cleanup will be held October 10 from 11 a.m. until about 3 p.m. The annual rock trip to the Klamath River, led by the Bickners, may be held October 2. Gail will contact members to confirm.

Under new business, Tom suggested a spring publicity event: a rhodie search to discover the tallest, broadest, biggest Rhododendrons in the area. No specific action was taken. The possibility of eliminating the public flower show in April in favor of a public garden tour was discussed. Several members plan to attend the National Conference in Victoria at the regular flower show time. No specific action was taken; members were invited to contact Tom or Nelda with comments. Abby Wasetis described a Times-Standard article written by her father and placed it on the table for members to read during the break. Jean Timmerman brought five years worth of ARS Journals from the 1980s. She urged interested members to take them. Trusses were shared by Dolores Miller (Pretty Baby) and Nelda Palmer (Black Sport). Don Wallace described the plants for the door prize and the raffle.

Under committee reports, Don provided a list of main programs and mini-programs for the year:

October: Main program: Mike Bones Mini-program: Propagation: Don

November: no meeting

December : Potluck meeting with slides from members.

January: Main program: Roger Gossler Mini-program: Stretching bloom season: Tom

February: Main program: Paul Anderson Mini-program: Pests and Diseases: Jill

March: Main program: open Mini-program: Companion plants: Tim

April: Main program: Sue Tosten Mini-program: Flower color and fragrance: Don

May: Main program: Garden tours? Mini-program: Species vs. Hybrids: Bruce

June: Potluck with members' slides Mini-program: Azaleas, deciduous and evergreen

The mini-program for the month was presented by Nelda Palmer and Jerry Reynolds. Nelda explained a large poster depicting the most common flower shapes for rhododendrons and Jerry explained a large poster with leaf shapes using some actual leaves as examples. During the break, sale of raffle tickets netted the chapter \$65.

Following the break, Don introduced the speaker for the evening, Harold Greer, and his wife Nancy. Harold gave an excellent program with slides and diagrams explaining each major group of azaleas and some of the hybrids from the groups that hybridize freely. A question and answer session followed the presentation. The door prize was awarded and the raffle conducted. Tom thanked everyone for attending and adjourned the meeting at 9:20 p.m. Respectfully submitted, Bruce Palmer, Secretary

EUREKA CHAPTER MEETING MINUTES— JUNE 24, 2004

The June potluck meeting was called to order at 7:45 PM by President Tom Martin. There were 34 members and one guest. Tom's wife, Aileen, was our special guest.

Hal Braafladt, Don Wallace, Tim Walsh, Jeannie Timmerman, Nelda Palmer and Jerry Reynolds all shared blooms of various interest; big, fragrant, pink, white, red...all beautiful. Catherine Weeks and Don Wallace brought plants for the Raffle and described their attributes. There were many exchange, trade and give-away plants. It is so much fun to plant someone else's special plants in our gardens.

Tim Walsh reported the club cash assets at \$9,517.62.

The Chapter has 9 new members.

Debby Brantley "awarded" outgoing directors party poppers. Thank you all for your hard work on behalf of the Chapter.

After the potluck supper Nelda passed out the engraved trophies from the Flower Show.

Don Wallace presented Rhodo 101; How, When and What to Fertilize.

Members shared slides of their favorite plants and gardens. The meeting was adjourned at 9:15...Submitted by Debby Brantley

OCTOBER ROCK HOUNDS' HUNT

It was bright and sunny on October 3rd when 8 Rhody members and friend met at the Country Kitchen in Arcata. Our "fearless leaders", Frank Bickner and Darci Short rallied the troops and led us off to the Klamath River area for a rock-collecting trip. Our first stop was along the road past Hoopa where nice big angular brown layered rock was found. Several pieces found their way in the vehicles (some now make up a border in the Palmer's new shade garden). The slate quarry was next, where granite was collected near the river and slate was gathered with the help of Bruce's chisel and mallet. Charlie Pace suggested that tying a rope to the front of a wheelbarrow would allow an easier pull over the rocky ground. With plenty of spring left in the trucks and van (no comment on the legs) we carried on to the next and final rock stop. The river was beautiful and tempting. Charlie and Donna found the prize. Must have weighed in the 300-pound area. The challenge was to get it into the truck. It was placed in their garden before they left for New Zealand. Glenda Alexander and Gayle Teter have their collection scattered around their newly worked garden. Bickners are redoing several places in their garden, which requires nice big boulders. A friend of Bruce's and Nelda's, Donal McCall was a good sport and picked out several nice pieces but was probably perplexed about all the expended energy. Lunch was eaten at the nearby campground. A wonderful time was had by all. See you on the next collecting trip.

Submitted by Nelda and Bruce Palmer

Top left, Gayle directs the rock collecting. Top right, Everybody helps with Charlie and Donna Pace's treasure. (pictures contributed by Bruce and Nelda Palmer) Below Left and Right, Rhodo Glen cleanup. (pictures contributed by Jim Wasetis)





Western Regional Conference Hilo Hawaii
 Above left, District 5 participants l-r District
 5 Rep Paul Anderson, June Walsh, , Dee
 Daneri, R and A news editor, Marty Ander-
 son, Tim Walsh, Diane Weissman, Tom and
 Nike Wynn.

Above right, recently retired ARS Exec. Dee
 Daneri.

Second row left, Tim, Dee, Conference Chair
 Sherla Bertelmann. Right, The view from the
 conference hotel.

Bottom left, Eureka Chapter members Dee,
 Karen Rochames, June and Tim.

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 June Walsh. 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

TOM GETS THE LAST WORD

Jim Wasetis lost his amateur status at the Sequoia Park workday. It's reported that a lot of money was recovered from the old fountain during the cleaning process. It was all Abby could do to keep Jim from diving in. Several others lost their amateur status as well and, when the list is completed, we'll give you the details. Anyway, a rather handsome sum is in the care of Nelda Palmer and will be added to the ARS coffers in due time, after carrying charges have been deducted. Tractor Tech Tim and his Bodacious Backhoe were also involved and Tim was observed fishing without a license. Tim claimed that any fish take was purely accidental, but we all thought it was just a bit odd that the only thing he brought for lunch was tarter sauce. In connection with the workday, I think we may have gained a new member. Tim and June Walsh's cousin, Ken Bareilles, did a tremendous amount of work; all with a chainsaw. Evidently June never told him what a Rhododendron looks like or that the project wasn't supposed to be a clear cut. I sure hope the city crew was able to get those downed redwoods out of the clearing alright. Anyway, a little judicious blackmail and we'll have a new member.

Just a word or two about all those wonderful azaleas Harold showed us at the last meeting. I've decided that life is meaningless without Orange Splendor. Or was it Golden Lights, or maybe it was canadense. I can't help it. I'm so confused. But I noticed that Lynn Sarty wasn't doing much better. She had everything on all three pages underlined and marked as must have, immediate, at any cost. When you get them planted, Lynn, we'll all be by to help watch them grow.

I'm still getting reports that the best garden on the HBGF garden tour this year belongs to Charlie and Donna. You can do a drive-by viewing at 6258 Abrahamsen Court (Humboldt Hill). There have been some reports of wild peacock attacks so keep your children and valuables in your car.

Mark your calendars for the 28th. Mike Bones will be here and also Don will show us how to succeed at cutting graft or some such. President Tom Martin

Editor's note: The money recovered from the fountain and the recyclables from the paths and beds totaled \$1.25, which has been added to the treasury.