

AMERICAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

## Eureka Chapter

*The next meeting  
Thursday, Feb. 24 — 7:30 p.m.  
First Baptist Church  
422 Del Norte St., Eureka*



**February 2005**

*The pre-Meeting No-Host Dinner will be at Roy's Club 218 D Street, Eureka at 5:15 Thursday Feb. 24. Please be sure to call Nelda, 443-8049, to reserve your seat at table with your Rhody friends.*

### **PAUL ANDERSON TO SHOW GARDENS DOWN-UNDER**

Dr. Paul Anderson (below right with Mary Alice Comstock) will share his travels in New Zealand and Australia at the February 24th meeting. Paul is a founding member of the Eureka Chapter and District 5 American Rhododendron Society Director (District 5 includes California and Hawaii). He is also a past President of the Eureka Chapter. Paul now lives and works in Napa but has kept his Eureka home and garden. His garden in Cutten has been on many member garden tours.

Paul is an extensive and enthusiastic traveler with gardens and Rhododendrons of particular interest to him. He will speak about Garden Tours he took in October 2004 to both Australia and New Zealand. Some gardens that will be highlighted in the program will include: Maple Glen with its beautiful 30 acre garden filled with exotic birds, Blue Mountain Nursery with rhododendrons, azaleas and pleione orchids, the Dunedin Botanical Garden, Gorse eradication, hostas with no slugs, Crested penguins, Stuart Island Lodge with Tim and June Walsh's name in the registry, a Mt. Cook tour (also known as Mount Aoraki, shown below left), a jet boat ride, and a tour of the Tasman glacier. Lots of fabulous gardens will be highlighted...this is a must see program by one of the best speakers available.



## **President Tom's Trophy Dreams**

It's the time of year when young hearts fall in love and old Rhodoholics determine, once again, to take home the trophy. No, we're not talking trophy spouses here. (Notice how politically/generically correct I am.) We're talking about the really big one, the Best of Show Trophy. (I hear it's edible this year.) If you haven't started strategizing yet, you've only just time. The flower show will be held at the April 21<sup>st</sup> meeting this year, so its time to act. You've got early bloomers to retard, late bloomers to accelerate and everything in between to pamper.

Just a word or two about methods. Its fair, but probably too late, to use those little Root Weevil Hotels. Some people consider the Tosten Truss Umbrellas a little 'over the top' and I personally plan to try a cheap foreign knock-off, but must warn that the cheap ones tend to collapse under a heavy load of hail. I heard a rumor that Mel is using smudge pots and mirrors in the shady sections of his garden this year. Then there's that whole assortment of grow lights, truss vibrators, piped music, fans and even that new Alpine Sun Simulator that Nelda imported. Ha, thought we didn't know, didn't you Nelda?

But enough about the old methods. The new method is to expand your horizons. You've heard the expression 'The world is my Rhody', right? Taking that to another level, we have the Truss Search Network, TSN. When you see Ken Bareilles out running or Abby Wasetis out walking, you can bet they're not just out there for their health. Wasn't it just last year that Donna Pace almost took best of show with a hot King George, fresh from in front of the Cal Trans building? But be careful. Don surprised a bunch of us with a new electric fence last year and Dee has been training Cos to be a Rhody guard dog. Cos will let you have the lesser trusses, but won't let you near the real winners.

Its time for me to go back out and sing to Naselle. Hope you all got what you wanted for Valentine's Day. Tom Martin, President

### **Victoria British Columbia International Conference**

There is still time to plan a trip to glorious Victoria, B. C. for the ARS Conference "A Silver Salute. The dates are April 27th through May 1st, 2005. The conference registration form is in your Winter Journal. So many of the Eureka Chapter members are planning to attend we have had to cancel our Rhododendron Festival Flower show. So come to see gardens including world famous Bucharth Gardens, hear interesting speakers and enjoy the company of other Rhodoholics in the beautiful city of Victoria. You may get more information online at:

<http://victoria.tc.ca/recreation/ars2005/>

## Word of the Month

*By, Bruce Palmer*

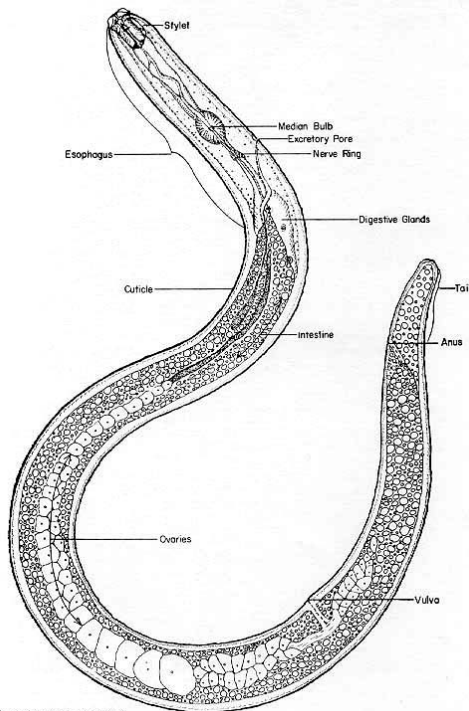
This month's word is **NEMATODE**. The word is from the Greek *nematos*, meaning thread. The word comes up because Paula Trinoskey confessed at the last board meeting that she and Vern are attempting to control root weevils with nematodes. Root or vine weevils are those insects that chew nice round holes in the edges of your Rhody leaves so you can't enter them in the show. The phylum Nematoda is probably the largest in the animal kingdom. It is estimated that there are more species of nematodes than any other animal and their collective weight may exceed the total weight of all other animals on earth. Nematodes are the most primitive animals with a straight-through digestive system; more primitive animals must eat and get rid of waste through their mouths. Most nematodes are really bad actors, causing in humans such things as Elephantiasis, roundworm infections in little kids and hookworms. In plants they cause serious galls on roots that can set plants back and even kill them. Their parasitic tendencies can be taken advantage of, though, and this is where Paula's use comes in. You can buy the eggs, mix them in warm water and apply. The nematodes attack the weevil larvae and control their numbers. Whether the method works well in this cool climate is an open question. Paula, give us a report at the end of the summer. If you

want more information on this biological control method, one recent source is

Kenneth Cox's 1998 book, Rhododendrons, a Care Manual, pages 64 & 65.

Check out Nematodes on line at: <http://nematode.unl.edu/>

The Nematode pictured here is a plant parasite.



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. 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

### January Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order by President Tom Martin at 7:38 p.m. Twenty-nine members and two guests were present. Guest Rhonda Smyser was introduced. Trusses were shared by Don Wallace and Tim Walsh. Don Wallace described the raffle plants. Treasurer Tim Walsh reported a balance of \$10,170.58. Tom shared information on the International Convention in Victoria at the end of April. Tim presented information on the San Francisco and Seattle Flower Shows.

The flower show this year will be a members' show at the April meeting chaired by Jerry Reynolds. Jerry will have specific information at the February meeting. Don Wallace is arranging a public garden tour to be held May 21 or 22. The plant sale is pending. Tom gave a mini-program on extending the blooming season including such parameters as nutrients, temperature and position in the yard. He suggested that lists of rhodies are available on the ARS web site at [rhododendron.org](http://rhododendron.org).

Following the break, Don Wallace introduced Roger Gossler as guest speaker. Roger is a nurseryman from Eugene. He gave a very interesting program on woodland plants using his garden and a number of others as examples for settings.

Jacque McShane won the door prize. An auction of a special witchhazel brought by Roger yielded \$35. The Raffle was held following the auction. Tom thanked everyone for attending and adjourned the meeting at 9:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Bruce Palmer, Secretary

Photographs provided by Nelda Palmer: Left, Tim Walsh sells Molly Eggle and Carol Dunning winning raffle tickets...sorry Jerry, your numbers didn't win. Right, Burt Hoyle and guest speaker Roger Gossler trade growing secrets.

