

AMERICAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

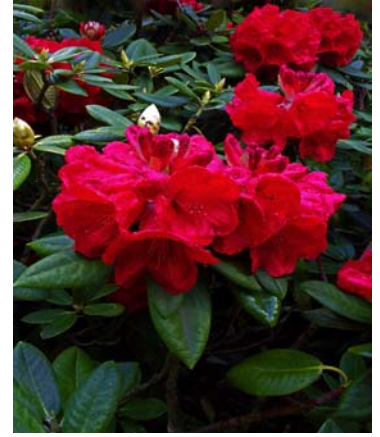
## Eureka Chapter

### *The next meeting*

Thursday, April. 26 — 7:30 p.m.  
Christ Episcopal Church  
15th and H Streets  
Eureka, California

5:15 p.m. Pre-Meeting No Host Dinner  
Gonsea (near Target)  
2335 4th Street, Eureka

**To be sure we have enough seats call  
Nelda for a reservation 443-8049**



April 2007

### Rhododendron, King or Shrubs

Don Wallace will give the April 26th program at 7:30 PM at Christ Episcopal Church. Don's program "Rhododendrons, King of Shrubs" will take you on a journey through the genus Rhododendron and will include some history and geographical information about where rhododendrons come from and how they arrived here in the U.S. He will focus on good foliage as well as flowers, and some of the cultural aspects like pruning that will result in better plants in your garden. Since Don is a hybridizer he will explain how to hybridize and some of the outcomes you might expect from using specific parents in a cross.

Don is the owner of Singing Tree Gardens Nursery which he began in 1992 out of a 'hobby gone mad' and a deep passion for plants. Singing Tree Gardens Nursery specializes in rhododendrons, both hybrids and species, with an emphasis on fragrant varieties. Don, Ryan Scott and Jill Mefford enjoy showing visitors through the outstanding display garden, in which you can see how rhododendrons grow.



Don is Past President of the Eureka Chapter, has been Program Chairman for many years, he plans the annual Spring Rhododendron Tour and diligently works the plant sale during the Rhody Festival.

*Photo by Don Wallace of R. 'Mi Amor'*

**Rhodo 101-A and 101-B, Carol Dunning** will give pointers for making flower arrangements using Rhododendrons. Carol is a member of the Arrangers Guild and has won many ribbons at our flower shows.

**Jerry Reynolds** will share useful information about preparing your rhododendron trusses for the show. Everyone is encouraged to bring trusses in so the public can see the vast diversity of flowers and foliage that rhododendrons have.

*Photos are those of the Newsletter editor, June Walsh, unless otherwise noted. Permission is granted to reprint any portion of this publication provided credit to the author and Chapter is given. . The photo above is R. "Rubicon" by John Koelsch.*

## **Spring Rhododendron Gardens Tour Sunday April 29**

### **Garden of Mike and Dian Keesee, 1000 Angel Heights Drive, Fortuna**

Situated on a beautiful and somewhat secluded piece of property overlooking the city of Fortuna, Mike and Dian Keesee have created a garden that is a true work of art. Coming down the driveway, you are greeted by a row of mature flowering cherry trees with masses of unusual heaths and heathers that are like a watercolor painting beneath. There are mature rhododendrons lighting up a wooded area to the west where Dian's spacious greenhouse sits filled with begonias. Out in a clearing there are many labeled patches of unusual daffodils that Mike and Dian have collected over the years. Around the house there are gardens filled with heaths and heathers and other unusual conifers and rhododendrons. Don't miss this lifetime creation that is the result of two passionate collectors of unusual plants.

### **Garden of Joan and Barney Elking, 136 Main Street, Fortuna**

Ten years ago Joan and Barney Elking became the fourth generation to occupy Joan's 120-year old family home and its 2-acre garden. Through the years the garden had seen many changes, the most recent (30 years ago) being the removal of all mature trees and shrubs. The 70-year-old orchard was also cut down. So, as Joan and Barney put it, they had a blank canvas to work with. They replanted the orchard and added hedges to isolate the house from near-by roads and planted many rhododendrons, azaleas, heathers, ornamental grasses and other small shrubs. One small enclosed garden was planted with flowers that Joan's grandmother had in the garden many years before. The garden is still relatively new but that "blank canvas" is filling fast.

### **Garden of Tim and Sharon Haffner, 3800 Mitchell Road, Eureka.**

Nurtured for more than 30 years by the previous owner, Molly Eggel, and for the past five years by Sharon and Tim, this mature garden holds a great variety of rhododendrons that set off the surrounding redwood forest. As the multicolored blooms peak from mid-April to early May, this garden becomes nature's spectacular display of spring fireworks much to the delight of the residents, guests and passersby.

### **Garden of BJ Winer, 2999 Sringer Drive, McKinleyville.**

Relax and enjoy strolling through BJ Winer's garden that surrounds her seaside home. Drink in the colors, textures, shapes, and smells of her diverse plantings. BJ is co-owner of All Seasons Landscape Design and her yard is a beautiful example of an All Seasons landscape created to compliment the house while using plants that are wind and salt resistant. Naturally, BJ incorporated rhodys for their beauty and evergreen stability. BJ's landscape includes a large Koi pond with a creek bed and two waterfalls created by All Seasons while appearing to be created by nature.

### **Garden of Alan and Keli Samson, 111 Old Roundhouse Road, Fieldbrook.**

Set among the redwoods and log home, this property has been developed by the homeowners: Allen, utilizing the skills of the building trades, and Kelli, co-owner of All Seasons Landscape Design. Together they have created a meandering lawn, Koi pond, English garden, a bog garden, woodland landscapes, rock walls while using primarily deer resistant plants. Come see this labor of love.

### **Garden of Don and Bev Zeman, 185 Baker Ranch Road, Trinidad.**

When the Zemans moved to Trinidad four years ago most of the property was undeveloped with the exception of the front of the house where a dry rock stream and a mix of rhododendrons, hydrangeas, Japanese maples and grasses, blue iris clumps, fuschias and some small evergreens blended beautifully with the forest around it. The soil was fertile but heavy and the main issues were water mitigation and elimination of exotic species which had overrun the area. This has influenced the direction of how the garden has developed. They have combined woodland plants and natives to blend into the surrounding forest and creeks.

*Tickets are available at the meeting Thursday April 26th, at the Flower Show April 28th, in the gardens April 29th and at your favorite garden center now.*



## Plant of the Month

Rhododendron 'Glowing Gold' is the Plant of the Month. Here is a fabulous new hybrid from the master hybridizer Frank Fujioka. The seed parent is R. 'Yaku Sunrise' and the pollen parent is R. 'Lem's Cameo'. When 'Glowing Gold' comes into bloom it is a perfect bouquet of golden yellow flowers covering the plant so heavily that the leaves are completely hidden. The parent R. 'Yaku Sunrise' adds a blossom shape that is very unique and different from other rhododendron flowers. Upon close inspection, it can be seen that the petals of each blossom are deeply cut and very much unlike other rhododendron flowers. This plant is one of Frank's best new hybrids, and looks fantastic when planted with one of his other hybrids R. 'Vibrant Violet' which blooms at the exact same time.

*By Don Wallace*

## PLANT SALE

One of the benefits of membership in the Eureka Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society is the annual plant sale. The Eureka Chapter brings in plants that are not found at the "major retailers" so must be obtained at our members' nurseries, **West Gate Garden Nursery** and **Singing Tree Garden Nursery** or at the Eureka Chapter **Plant Sale**.

This year we have plants from the **Rhododendron Species Foundation** in Federal Way, Washington, new **Scottish** hybrids from **Hammond's Acres of Rhododendrons** in Arlington, Washington, azaleas from **Nuccio's Nurseries** in Altadena, California, species from **Thompson's Nursery** in Waldport, Oregon and fragrant rhodos from **Singing Tree Gardens Nursery** McKinleyville, California.

Come to the Flower Show and **Plant Sale** at St. Bernard's Catholic School on Henderson Street in Eureka **Saturday April 28th from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.** The Plant Sale will continue **Sunday April 29th** at the Trinoskey's home 2300 S Street, Eureka.

The proceeds from the Plant Sale help support the meeting raffle plants, the June potluck, meal expenses for our speakers and travel and lodging expense for our out-of-town program presenters.

Come early for the best selection and bring your family and friends!

## WORD OF THE MONTH

*By Bruce Palmer*

This month's word has been waiting for the Rhododendron blooming season. It's "bodacious". Yes, it is a legitimate word, used in botany to describe a plant or a part of a plant that is "intrepidly bold or daring". That is a rather redundant definition, but it works. The word probably comes from the Old French "Boda", meaning messenger, and the French "-ieux" or the Latin "-ceous", meaning resembling. I've seen it used most recently to describe the largest flower in the world, a meter-wide flower of *Rafflesia*, a parasitic member of the spurge family (*Poinsettias*, etc.) that grows in the jungles of Borneo. This time of year it fits Rhododendrons perfectly. What is a Rhodo plant covering itself with trusses if not Bodacious? Now for the curve. April 28 is our chapter's public Rhododendron flower show. It's at St. Bernard's Catholic School on Henderson Street. Every member needs to bring their most bodacious trusses to show the public how showy and diverse the genus Rhododendron is. Without our show many people think Rhododendrons are those pink or purple (or both colors) bushes that someone planted too close to the house a few generations ago. They have no idea that rhodos come in yellows, bicolors, whites or deep shades of violet. Please help us show off the genus to the public this year. Bring flowers even if you don't think they look great. Yours might be quite different from others at the show. You might even win a ribbon or have your name engraved on a trophy.

### Future Programs

**April 26, 2007**

**Don Wallace:** Rhodo The King of Shrubs, Rhodo 101: Carol Dunning, Arrangers' Guild, Jerry Reynolds, getting flowers ready to show

**April 28, 2007**

**Flower Show and Plant Sale, St. Bernard's School**

**April 29, 2007**

**Eureka Chapter Garden Tour and Plant Sale**

**May 5, 2007**

**Noyo Chapter Show, Fort Bragg**

**May 5, 2007**

**Humboldt Botanical Garden Plant Sale @ HBG Sun Valley greenhouse.** Take the College of the Redwoods exit off of Highway 101, south of Eureka, to donate plants call Tennie Brooks 725-2430

**May 19, 2007**

**Siuslaw Chapter Show, Celebration Florence Oregon's 100 years of Rhodo Festivals**

**May 20, 2007**

**So. Humboldt Garden Club, flower show, 943-3147**

**May 24, 2007**

Member and guest **Mini-Flower** show. Participants will be judging entries. Rhodo 101, how to judge a show, Jerry Reynolds, Pizza Party

**June**

Date to be determined, **Potluck at Tom and Aileen Martin's! Tufa Reprise (new recipe)**

**June 24, 2007**

**Humboldt Botanical Gardens Foundation garden tour**

Meetings will take place at the Christ Church Episcopal at 15th and H Streets in Eureka at 7:30 p.m. unless otherwise announced. Programs may change as speakers' schedules may change.

Please Welcome New Members  
Sandra Dupret, Loleta  
Michelle Postman, McKinleyville

# **One Raffle Ticket Per Flower Show Entry**

**Bring your flowers in Friday April  
27th from 6:00 to 9:30 p.m.**

**And Saturday April 28th from 7:00  
to 9:30 a.m.**

**Each entry gets one raffle ticket.  
The more entries you bring in the  
greater chance you will win a plant!**



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

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 also 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

### ***IT IS SHOW TIME***

**April 28 and 29** will be a double-header weekend for Eureka Chapter with the 35<sup>th</sup> annual Rhododendron Show and Plant Sale and the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Springtime Rhododendron Garden Tour.

Miles Hall at St. Bernard's Catholic School will again be the setting for Eureka Chapter's annual truss show and plant sale on Saturday, **April 28. Hours are 9 a.m. until 5 p.m.**, with judging scheduled for 10 a.m. until about noon.

**All chapter members are urged to bring trusses – or even plants – to enter in the competition and to encourage neighbors and friends who may have rhododendrons in bloom to join in the fun. In addition to swelling the number of entries, your neighbors and friends may win a ribbon or two to take and catch the “rhody bug” and join the chapter.**

Be sure to spread the word about the show, too. Remember, the real goal is not the competition, but sharing with the public our love of rhododendrons and great variety of plants available today.

We also need additional volunteers to help with various chores at the show. If Gayle Teter or Molly Eggel haven't talked with you yet, you will still have a chance to sign up at the April 26 meeting.

**We'll take timeout from cleanup chores Saturday evening to enjoy some pizza and other goodies.**

**You can bring entries to the show Friday between 6 and 9:30 p.m., and again on Saturday between 7 and 9:30 a.m.** Help will be available Friday night to identify trusses for you and to get them in the proper classifications. Help will be limited on Saturday morning, but volunteers will be available to help place the trusses in the appropriate place.

There is one rule change this year: awards made in the New Hybrids class do not count toward the Sweepstakes Trophy.

In addition to rhododendron trusses, there are classes for azaleas; for rhody and azalea plants; flower arrangements built around rhododendrons; photos featuring rhodies and azaleas; bonsai; and educational exhibits.

**There will be a short demonstration at the April 26 meeting on preparing trusses for the show.**

So take a walk through your garden early in the week before the show and identify those plants you will want to enter. It will make it easier and quicker to actually cut the trusses come Friday. Keep the cut trusses in water until it's time to head to Miles Hall.

The garden tour on Sunday, April 29, features six gardens from Fortuna to Trinidad.

Descriptions of the six gardens are elsewhere in the newsletter.

**Tickets for the tour, priced at \$10 each**, are available at most local nurseries and garden shops and will be available at the truss show. They may also be purchased on the day of the tour at any of the gardens.

The associated plant sale will move from St. Bernard's School to the Trinoskey home at 2300 S St., Eureka, on Sunday. Hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. *By Jerry Reynolds*