

AMERICAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

Eureka Chapter

The next meeting

Thursday, February 22 — 7:30 p.m.
Christ Episcopal Church
15th and H Streets
Eureka, California

Pre-Meeting No Host Dinner

Go Fish and Chips Café
First Street at Commercial, Eureka
To be sure we have enough seats call
Nelda for a reservation 443-8049



February 2007

PAUL ANDERSON'S GARDENS DOWN-UNDER

Dr. Paul Anderson, shown below, is a Medical Doctor who currently lives in Napa and is semi-retired. Paul has had an interest in Rhododendrons for many years. He previously lived and practiced in Eureka where he still maintains a home and spectacular Rhododendron garden, which has hosted many garden tours. Paul is a founding member of the Eureka Chapter and District 5 American Rhododendron Society Director (District 5 includes 7 chapters in California and Hawaii). He is also a past President of the Eureka Chapter.



Paul is an extensive and enthusiastic traveler with gardens and Rhododendrons of particular interest to him. Paul's program February 22nd at 7:30 pm will be about a recent trip he took to the Rhododendron conferences in Tasmania and New Zealand with a major focus on the outstanding gardens visited by the conference attendees. This program is sure to make every one want to visit our fellow Rhodo enthusiasts down under.

ARS Convention April 12-18, South San Francisco

The planning has been underway for a little over a year for the first International American Rhododendron convention to come to California since 1991, when the California Chapter hosted the event. People who have attended Conventions and Regional Conferences will tell you about how much fun they are. Garden tours are the highlight for most attendees as well as outstanding international speakers. The upcoming conference has both plus a big plant sale focusing on rare and special rhodos as well as companion plants. Check it all out in the Winter *Journal* or at www.ars2007conf.org.

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WORD OF THE MONTH

By Bruce Palmer

This month's word is "allelopathy". The dollar-a-pound word is not related to Rhododendrons directly, but is pertinent in case you are thinking about planting a rhodie under a Eucalyptus tree about now. Allelopathy stems from the Greek allele for another or one another and pathos for causing harm. Roughly translated it might be read as poisoning your relatives. In genetics an allele is one of a pair of genes controlling a characteristic, flower shape, for example. Quite a few plants, especially trees, secrete harmful chemicals that ward off pests or reduce competition in the area immediately surrounding themselves. That is called Allelopathy. In the case of Eucalyptus, the leaves and seed pods contain resins that, when dropped to the ground, inhibit the growth of new plants, including other Eucalyptus. That's why we don't see other plants growing successfully under Eucalyptus trees. There are lots of other examples of the process. It comes about because plants don't have kidneys or livers to get rid of toxic by-products from metabolism. Among trees it is common for them to store toxins in the dead inner cells in their trunks, the dead outer cells of the bark or in the leaves or seed pods. When the leaves, outer bark or seed pods are dropped the poisons go with them. Often these metabolic by-products are not toxic to us but are very aromatic. Thus we have bay leaves, cinnamon bark and cloves. If the by-products are stored in the inner cells in the trunk they don't poison the tree but may yield great smells as with camphor wood or fantastic colors beloved by woodworkers from trees such as mahogany. So, don't plant your rhodie under that Eucalyptus this year but the next time you cook or admire a piece of furniture be grateful that trees don't have kidneys.



December Potluck fun. Left Abby and Jim Wasetis
Below left, Willie McCarthy, President Paula Trinoskey, Verne Trinoskey, Eris McCarthy. Center, Royal McCarthy and the food. Right, Don Wallace & plants.



Nominations for Rhododendron of the Year

By Jerry Reynolds

It's time to think about the Rhododendron of the Year awards – for 2009.

ARS districts are being asked to nominate plants to be considered for the 2009 honors, which will be announced to the public in late 2008 and early 2009.

The awards, begun in 2000, are an effort by the American Rhododendron Society to acquaint more of the public with rhododendrons and azaleas and to encourage their cultivation.

The awards are made in each of seven geographic regions of North America. Each region selects four winners – an elepidote and lepidote rhododendron, and deciduous and evergreen azaleas. A Vireya rhododendron is selected in the seventh region.

To be eligible, a plant must first be registered and it must come from the chapters' list of Proven Performers. Eureka Chapter updated its Proven Performers list last year, so dig it out and take a look at both the list and your garden.

We are looking for plants that perform exceptionally well. Consider flowers, growth habit, foliage and ease of care.

Bring your suggestions to the February chapter meeting, where we'll take a few minutes to share ideas and nominees.

Future Programs

March 22, 2007

Tim Walsh, Rhodo 101, Pruning with Jill Mefford

April 12-15, 2007

**American Rhododendron Convention,
San Francisco, www.ars2007conf.org**

April 16-18

**Post Convention tour of Quarryhill, wine country
and Mendocino gardens**

April 26, 2007

Don Wallace, Rhodo 101, Carol Dunning, Arrangers'

Guild

April 28, 2007

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

April 29, 2007

May 24, 2007

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

June

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

**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 speak-
ers' schedules may change.**



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

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

American Rhododendron Society - Eureka Chapter
September 28, 2006 - Monthly Meeting - 7:30 p.m.

The Raffle plants were from Thompson Nursery -
Marquis Angus variety of rhododendron 4' tall and 4-5 feet wide.
Ebony Pearl is a grafted variety with dark leaves and a pink flower.
Elsie Lee is an evergreen azalea.

Treasurer's Report - Net Balance \$13,406.83
Conference Meeting in San Francisco on Sunday, October 1.
Volunteers are needed for the refreshment list.

Presentation

Don Wallace - biological controls for rhododendron pests.
Karen Angel - Director Humboldt Botanical Foundation. - - - 45 acres at College of the Redwoods.

October 14 Humboldt Botanic Garden - open house 1-3 p.m.

Next meeting - October 26 - guest speaker - Mike Bones.

September 28, 2006

Respectfully Submitted: William G. Furst

The Rhododendron Year

March

Now is an excellent time to prune older plants. Begin to collect pollen for later crosses. By mid-month one should apply fertilizer. Pinch early growth or a late frost will.

April

Now is the time to check to see if you have root weevil damage. If you do have damage check with your favorite rhodo nursery for the best control for this time of the year. By using phosphate now you will help roots increase bud set during the summer months.

Identify the trusses you will enter into the Flower show on April 28th. Guard against rain and hail by erecting tents. If trusses are opening slowly bring them in to your warm house to speed opening. If trusses are opening too quickly bring them in and put them in your refrigerator away from fruit. Before entering be sure your trusses have a nice collar of leaves, clean up the bud scales and remove the bugs.