

AMERICAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

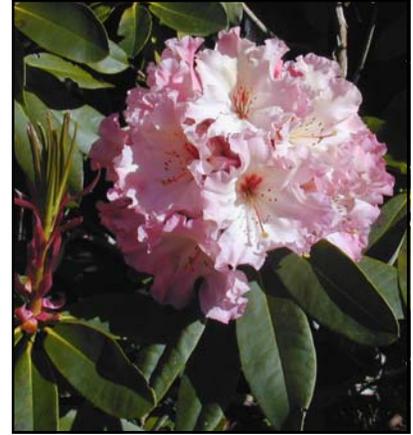
## Eureka Chapter

### *The next meeting*

*Thursday, January 25 — 7:30 p.m.  
Christ Episcopal Church  
15th and H Streets  
Eureka, California*

*Pre-Meeting No Host Dinner, 5:15 pm*

*Mazzotti's Italian Food  
305 F Street, Eureka  
Space is limited, please call Nelda  
443-8049 to make your reservation*



**January 2007**

**GRAND TOUR : EXPRESSIONS OF THE IMAGINATION**

January 25th the Eureka Chapter has the honor of hosting Bryn Homsy who has been involved in work surrounding art and landscape for over thirty years. She taught fine art for over 20 years in the San Francisco Bay Area. Her undergraduate degree is Art History and post-graduate degree is in Landscape Studies with an emphasis on Garden Preservation. While reading Landscape Studies at the University of York in England her research focused on the “ferme ornée” (ornamented farm) created in the early 1700s England, and its antecedents. A main thrust in this research led her to be involved in researching the preservation and conservation of historic gardens and agricultural practices of mediaeval England.

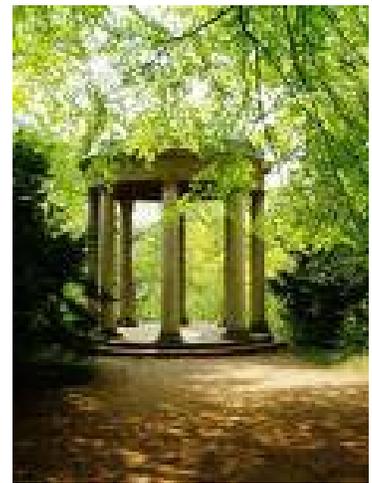
Mrs. Homsy lectures in Landscape Design History at University of California Santa Barbara; in the College of Creative Studies and Department of History of Art and Architecture - Summer Session, as well as adult education through the Santa Barbara City College. Research is a large part of Mrs. Homsy's life. These research projects take her and her husband traveling to foreign lands.

Because Mrs. Homsy has been educated in England she has a heightened awareness in regards to preservation and conservation of gardens and designed landscapes. The challenges and opportunities are numerous and she attempts to create a similar awareness in her students.

In order to be involved in the local community Mrs. Homsy belongs to several foundations and groups. She is involved in the Pearl Chase Society, and the California Garden and Landscape History Society, is a friend of both Casa del Herrero and Lotusland garden foundations and a member of the Santa Barbara Historical Museum Society and SB County Horticulture Society. To stay abreast of international concerns Mrs. Homsy subscribes to Garden History Society and the Historical Gardens Foundation, both published in London.

Mrs. Homsy's presentation will be “The Grand Tour” which found passion in the hearts and minds of the English. Upon returning home they created landscaped gardens that expressed their love of Nature and appreciation for the classical architecture they had seen. This talk focuses on estates influenced by the 'ancients': Chiswick, Stourhead, Studley Royal (pictured here).

Bill Furst and Bill Troiano will be Mrs. Homsy's hosts.



*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.*

## WORD OF THE MONTH

By Bruce Palmer

This month's word is "pachysanthum", as in *Rhododendron pachysanthum*. The species name comes from the Greek pachys, thick or stout (as in pachyderm, thick skin, for the elephant) and anthos, flower. How that name relates to the plant's flowers escapes me, but at least it is descriptive rather than being named after somebody. Naming species after people is frowned upon by the International Code of Botanical Nomenclature, but there are rules for doing it if you insist. The word comes up this month because I was walking by a specimen in our yard last week and realized that it is beautiful this time of year. While most rhodies are non-descript in winter, *R. pachysanthum*, *R. yakushimanum* and some others retain their hairy tomentum on the upper sides of the leaves of young growth, in spite of the pounding rains and even though they definitely do not need the hairs to prevent sunburn. *R. pachysanthum* even keeps its tomentum on the new stems. Quite a few rhodies retain the indumentum under the leaf, often a beautiful shade of cinnamon, but that doesn't show unless you turn the leaf over. Not many are showy on the tops of their leaves. This is definitely the best time of year to walk through the garden and observe the wide differences in *Rhododendron* growth, even among the plants that don't have hairy leaves. The experience certainly shows that we should grow *Rhododendrons* for their foliage, not just for their flowers.

This *R. Pachysanthum* is from [www.rhododendron.org](http://www.rhododendron.org) by Kenneth Cox.



### The Rhododendron Year

**February,** Use small amounts of "fritted trace elements". This will help create darker foliage and help with fertilization assimilation. This is an excellent time to plant previous year's crosses and grafts (and potted plants not planted last fall).

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

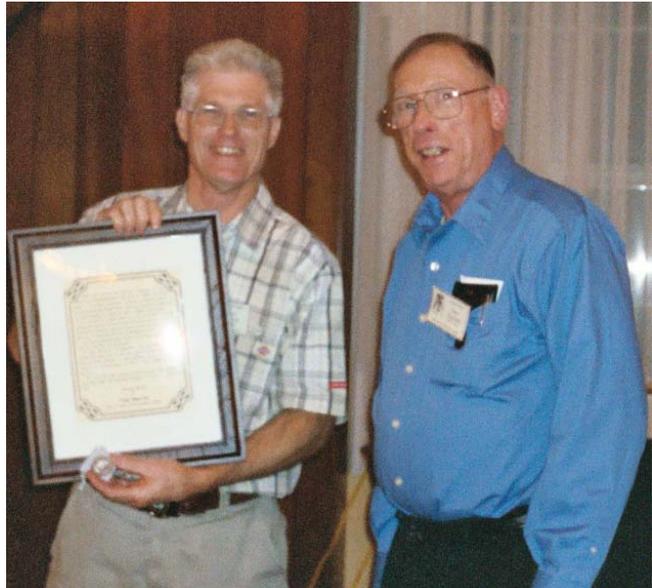
**The 2007 American Rhododendron Society Convention will be held in South San Francisco April 12 to 15 with a Post-Convention tour April 16 to 18. See all the information in your Winter 2007 *Journal* or on the web at [www.ars2007conf.org](http://www.ars2007conf.org). Sign up soon to get a place on the best tours!**

## Tom Martin Awarded Bronze Medal

The Eureka Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society awarded Tom Martin the its highest honor ,the Bronze Medal. Tom has been a Life member since 1991 and has been a tireless volunteer, lending a helping hand at truss shows and plant sales, setting up garden displays and just helping to clean up after regular meetings.

Tom served a single term as vice president before being elected to three consecutive terms as president of Eureka Chapter. Tom and Aileen have opened their home for the Chapter for garden tours and as host for potlucks.

As the Society's accountant Tom worked with the executive director to set up a new accounting system, he worked closely — and without fees — with the Society's committees to help them prepare their budgets. (pictured to the left are Aileen and Tom Martin, Right Tom Martin and Jerry Reynolds)



## Eureka Chapter bench installed at Humboldt Botanic Gardens

New Year's brought beautiful sunny and cold weather to the Humboldt Botanic Gardens where the bench that the Eureka Chapter donated has been installed overlooking the Moss Family Temperate Woodland Garden. Members David and Miriam Wilson and Tim Walsh are shown enjoying the bench and the view.





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

### Future Programs

- |                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| January 25, 2007         | <b>Bryn Homsy</b> , UCSB, Landscape Design History   |
| February 22, 2007        | Rhodo 101, do-it-yourself soil testing with Tim Walsh  |
| March 22, 2007           | <b>Dr. Paul Anderson</b> , Australia and New Zealand   |
|                          | Invited, Sue Natzler or Wilbur Bluhm, Rhodo 101, Pruning with Jill Mefford   |
| <b>April 12-15, 2007</b> | <b>American Rhododendron Convention, San Francisco, <a href="http://www.ars2007conf.org">www.ars2007conf.org</a></b> |
| April 16-18              | <b>Post Convention tour of Quarryhill, wine country and Mendocino gardens</b>  |
| April 26, 2007           | Invited, Mike Stewart  |
| April 28, 2007           | Rhodo 101, Carol Dunning, Arrangers' Guild   |
| April 29, 2007           | <b>Flower Show and Plant Sale</b>  |
| May 24, 2007             | <b>Garden Tour and Plant Sale</b>  |
|                          | Member and guest <b>Mini-Flower</b> show. Participants will be judging entries.                                      |
|                          | Rhodo 101, how to judge a show, Jerry Reynolds   |
| June                     | Date to be determined, <b>Potluck! Tufa Reprise (new recipe)</b>   |

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.

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