

Eureka Chapter



The next meeting

Thursday, May 24 — 6:30 p.m.
Christ Episcopal Church
15th and H Streets
Eureka, California

Pre-Meeting Chapter Hosted Dinner

6:30 p.m.
Christ Episcopal Church
Pizza, salad, drinks
Call June to reserve a crust 443-0604

MAY 2007

Mini Flower Show and Judging 101

You need to make one more trip through your garden looking for show trusses.

The May 24th meeting at Christ Episcopal Church will feature a mini-show which members and guests will judge.

It's also Pizza Night

The Chapter will provide pizza, salad and beverages in lieu of going to dinner on Thursday, May 24. The meeting will get under way at 6:30 p.m., so bring your appetite and your trusses and be prepared for a fun-filled evening.

Rules for the mini-show are published elsewhere in this newsletter, but to recap: Members (and guests) may enter only one truss in each category. Hybrids are entered by color; species by whether they are lepidote or elepidote. There is one category for fragrant rhodies. In all, there are nine categories, so the limit on entries is nine per person.

Jerry Reynolds will do the Rhodo 101 program on what to look for when judging the trusses and then everyone will be given a ballot and plenty of time to select the best truss in each category. In case of ties, Jerry will select someone at random to break the tie.

We'll take a break while the ballots are tallied and the blue ribbon winners determined.

A second ballot will select the Best of Show winner from among the nine blue-ribbon trusses.

Bottles will be available, but we won't fill them with water to avoid problems with the hardwood floor. Trusses should hold up fine for the evening.

When selecting trusses, remember to follow the same guidelines for a regular show. You can groom them by removing debris and critters, and you can wipe the leaves with a paper towel moistened in water. Trusses only; there is no category for sprays, nor is there an azalea category.

In addition to learning something about judging a show, the evening should also give us a look at some of the later-blooming rhodies in your gardens.

By Jerry Reynolds

Photos by Dick Jones at the Noyo Chapter Flower show. From Left to right the judges are Don Wallace, Bruce Palmer, Tim Walsh and Nelda Palmer.



Dist. 5 Hosted the 62nd Annual Convention in So. San Francisco, Calif. April 12-15, 2007

By Paul Anderson, M.D. District 5 Director

The 7 ARS Chapters in District 5 were pleased to host the 62nd Annual ARS Convention in South San Francisco, Calif. April 12-15, 2007. With computer access, the convention planning became a team effort of the 5 chapters in Northern Calif. with the expert leadership of Tim and June Walsh of the Eureka Chapter as coleaders.

The convention featured 3 days of garden tours that had 5 different optional tours available. We were delighted to have beautiful weather for the most part and also a peak bloom period for most gardens. There were tours to gardens in Golden Gate Park in San Francisco, a Peninsula tour to Filoli and 3 private gardens, an East Bay Tour to 2 private gardens, the UC Berkeley Botanical Garden and the Lakeside Vireya Garden that Bill Moyles has developed, a Santa Cruz tour to a private garden, the Bay Laurel Nursery, and the UC Santa Cruz Arboretum, a North bay Tour to 2 private gardens and the Sonoma Horticultural Nursery, and a winery garden.

The convention featured speakers at the evening dinners as the time and distance for garden tours utilized the daylight hours. The speakers included Dr. George Argent of the Royal Botanical Garden, Edinburgh, Dr. Robert Raabe, plant pathologist of the UC Berkeley, Michael McKechnie, executive director of the SF Botanical Garden, and Doug Thomson curator of the Dunedin Botanic Garden in New Zealand. There was an interesting post conference tour organized by Dee Daneri of the Eureka Chapter, that featured the Quarreyhill Botanical Garden in Sonoma, and a tour to gardens in Ft Bragg.

The convention banquet dinner included the presentation of the ARS Gold and Silver awards for recognition of achievements in promoting ARS goals. There were 2 Gold awards, one to Steve Hootman of the Rhododendron Species Foundation Botanical Garden and the other was to Peter Schick of the Noyo chapter. Of the 3 Silver awards given, one was awarded to Mitch Mitchell of the Hawaii chapter for his generous sharing of rhododendron information. Of interest is that both Peter Schick and Mitch Mitchell are both over 90 years old and still able to enjoy and share rhododendron knowledge with others.

District 5 is indebted to more than 50 volunteers who participated in the planning and staffing of the convention. Some of these include, Bob Weissman, registrar, Mike Esberg, treasurer, Dee Daneri, program speakers, catering for the bus tours, and post convention tour organizer, and Beach Blanket Babylon Theater and dinner, Diane Weissman, tour buses, Tom Wynn and Primo Facchini, truss and flower show, Don Selcer, photographic exhibit, Dick Jones, plant sales and volunteers, and the tour bus captains, Nan Ray, Don Selcer, Marvin Larsen, Larry Brooks, Erika Enos, Tim and June Walsh, Barbara Campbell, Tom Kelly, Jerry Harris, and Ralph Love.

District 5 enjoyed welcoming our garden friends to the convention and having an enjoyable and successful meeting. The convention was also a financial success due to good attendance, plant sales, silent auction, and keeping costs low. The profit will be divided among the 4 chapters who were mainly involved in planning as well as a portion to be given to the ARS. Thanks to all those who worked so hard in making the convention possible, and

to all those who attended and helped to make an enjoyable and memorable event.

Photos are by Dick Jones
Top left, Dr. Paul Anderson and Peter Schick (Gold Medal recipient), Top right, left to right incoming ARS President Fred Whitney, Steve Hootman (Gold Medal Recipient), out-going President Dr. Leonard Miller
Below left, Paul Anderson, Leonard Miller, June and Tim Walsh convention chairmen.
Below right, Eureka Associate member Mike McCullough at the convention plant sale.



AND THE FLOWER SHOW WINNERS ARE.....

By Jerry Reynolds

Sue Tosten was the big winner with eight trophies in the 35th annual Rhododendron Show and Plant Sale, but **Tom Martin** will have his name added to the Sweepstakes Trophy, as he edged Sue out (by two points) in the overall competition.

In all 30 people entered a total of 363 trusses, sprays, floral arrangements and photos in the show. It was one of the best shows in several years.

The plant sale was roaring success, too, with almost three-quarters of the inventory sold during the Saturday show.

Sue's eight trophies include: Best Hybrid Truss by Halfdan Lem (R. 'Pt. Defiance'); the Judges Special Award and Best Lavender Truss (R. 'Elsie Watson'); Best Truss of Show, People's Choice and Best Red Hybrid Rhododendron Truss (R. "Markeeta's Prize"); Best Azalea Spray; and Best Floral Arrangement.

In addition to the Sweepstakes award, **Tom Martin** also won the trophy for the Best Loderi King George Truss.

Others who won two trophy awards include **Tim Walsh**, Best Dwarf Rhododendron Truss and Best White Hybrid Rhododendron Truss; **Don Wallace**, Best Yellow Rhododendron Truss and Best Species Truss.

Picking up one trophy each were **Molly Eggel**, Best Photographic Award; **Catherine Weeks**, Best Hybrid Pink Rhododendron (R. 'Sir Frederick Moore'); **Dee Spencer**, Best Fragrant Rhododendron Truss; and **Jerry Reynolds**, Best Maddenii Truss or Spray (R. 'Patricia Marie').

There were 30 photography entries displayed on the new grid wall, but it was **Molly Eggel's** frog portrait that caught everyone's eye. The public judged it best among the entries.

And the public agreed with the show judges when it came to trusses. They selected **Sue Tosten's** R. 'Markeeta's Prize' for the People's Choice Award. It also won best red and Best of Show honors.

Jerry Reynolds will have the entry tags and ribbons to distribute at the May meeting; trophies will be awarded during the June potluck.

Photo by June Walsh, who was admiring Sue Tosten's winning Floral Arrangement while it waited on the fireplace for Sue to retrieve it after the show.



WORD OF THE MONTH

By, Bruce Palmer

This month's word isn't a single one. Instead it is a partial explanation for why there are so many technical terms to dissect, especially in the descriptions of flowers. We can blame Karl von Linne, the eighteenth century Swedish scientist, for the obscure words. He set up the system of classification we use today, known as binomial nomenclature. He decided to simplify a system of naming organisms that had gotten out of hand. In Linne's time each distinct species was named with a lengthy Latin description known as a polynomial. Latin was used because it was the Lingua Franca among European scientists and clergy of the time. Catnip is an example. Before it was assigned a two-word name it was designated *Nepeta floribus interrupte spicatus pedunculatis*, a Latin description of the plant's flowering parts. Linne started naming each distinct organism with two names, genus and species. He kept the idea of Latinizing the names (he renamed catnip *Nepeta cataria*) and became so tied up with the concept that he Latinized his name to Carolus Linnaeus. We know him simply as Linnaeus. Any plant whose genus name or binomial name is followed by L. or Linn. was named by Linnaeus. The genus *Rhododendron* L. is an example, as is *Rhododendron ponticum* Linn.

Linnaeus felt it was necessary to keep the idea of descriptions, so he set up a system of distinguishing one species from another with Latinized words. For reasons we may never know, Linnaeus decided that, in flowering plants, the best way to distinguish one species from another was to compare the reproductive structures. Some biologists speculate that he may have been obsessed with sex. In any case, flowering plant species are still distinguished from each other mainly by their flower parts. It is an exact method for identification but it makes it quite difficult for us to key out a plant in any botany field manual if we don't have a flower.

Coming down our road recently and spotting the only *Rhododendron macrophyllum* along it, I thought it might be a good example to use. English language field guides have Anglicized most of the original Latin descriptions of the flower parts, but many obscure words remain. Using just the corolla (Latin: corona, a crown), the petals as a group, for example, we find that Jepson's 1951 Manual of the Flowering Plants of California describes the corolla as "turbinate-campanulate...its broad lobes undulate...". It sounds like a mess, but if you have the flower in front of you, it works. -ate after each of the words is from the Latin -atus, meaning possession or likeness. Turbinate comes from the Latin turbin, that which spins or whirls around, a top. Campanulate means bell-shaped from the Latin campana for bell. Looking at the flower, it seems to taper from a bell shape to a top shape, so that portion of the description fits nicely. If you look at the edges of the flower petals, they are indeed Undulate, from the Latin undulus, wavy or the later French unda*, a wave. So, without looking at the rest of the flower description, this part will distinguish *R. macrophyllum* from other similar species. All these descriptive words can be a pain, especially when, as in this case, several texts have differing descriptions, but they certainly help when we try to identify a particular *Rhododendron*.

An interesting side issue about this particular species is that the 1951 edition of Jepson's manual called it *Rhododendron californicum*, so named by J. D. Hooker in 1855. The name is still listed as a synonym in Hitchcock and Cronquist's *Flora of the Pacific Northwest*. The change is due to another rule of binomial nomenclature, priority, a different interesting topic.

**From the editor's correspondence;* As with most science there is always room for clarification, illumination and addendum...David Wilson, Eureka Chapter member and linguaphile comments: "Unda" is good, solid Latin for "wave". "Undula" is a "little wave". French is "onde", an obvious descendant, but a cousin, not a direct ancestor of the English forms, which all seem to come from the Latin rather than the French.

Which gives me an excuse to muse a little. The argument for continuing with Latin botanical forms is still strong. While a relatively few plants are popular and so have acquired different, commonly used names in different languages. [pansy (eng)=pensee (fr)= amor perfeito (port), for example] the vast bulk are known only by name to the well educated who appreciate the ability to talk across borders without going to the dictionary to verify whatever the German (for example) might be for *boletus edulis*, or *amanita phalloides*. Besides, as the article points out, the system works pretty well once you understand a few of the rules.

The argument is the same for all sorts of specialized vocabularies: biological, medical, astronomical terms are complex enough as it is, and would be utterly impossible if they varied from language to language. Latin roots are the easiest to use since they (along with all the Greek stuff that comes to us through Latin) are still far and away the most commonly understood across the world for just about everything we call civilized.

Eureka Chapter Mini-show Rules

Show Date: Thursday, May 24 at 6:30 p.m.

This mini-show will give members a chance to see some late-blooming rhododendrons, as well as gain some practice in judging shows. Entries are limited to members of the American Rhododendron Society's Eureka Chapter.

All exhibits must have been in the member's garden for at least six months before the show.

Members and guests are limited to **one entry in each of 9 classes**. Entries must be rhododendron trusses. No sprays or hammerheads will be judged. There is no class for azaleas.

Entries are based largely on color, but members are encouraged to include the name of the species or hybrid on the entry card for the benefit of other members. Trusses may be groomed and prepared according to the rules for the regular Eureka Chapter Truss Show and Plant Sale.

Classes shall consist of the following:

Class 1: Lepidote Rhododendron Species, regardless of color. (These include the Maddeniis and most small-leafed rhododendrons.)

Class 2: Elepidote Rhododendron Species, regardless of color.

Class 3: Hybrid Rhododendrons, Red.

Class 4: Hybrid Rhododendrons, Pink.

Class 5: Hybrid Rhododendrons, White.

Class 6: Hybrid Rhododendrons, Purple, lavender or blue.

Class 7: Hybrid Rhododendrons, Yellow, orange or apricot.

Class 8: Hybrid Rhododendrons, Bicolor.

Class 9: Any Rhododendron truss entered for fragrance.

Judging shall be done by the members and guests attending the show. Each member shall receive a ballot and may vote for one truss in each class by writing the entry number on the ballot. Ties shall be broken by a member selected by drawing (using the sign-up list and the door-prize numbers) to cast a tie-breaking vote.

Once a winner has been selected in each class, members will be given a second ballot to vote for the Best of Show award from among the first-place winners in each class.

Awards: First-, second- and third-place ribbons shall be awarded in each class. Blue-ribbon winners also shall receive a \$25 gift certificate to a local nursery or garden store. The Best of Show award shall be accompanied by a \$100 gift certificate for dinner at Moonstone Grill.



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

One Raffle Ticket Per Flower Show Entry

Remember this headline? The raffle will be held at the May 24th meeting...363 tickets in all for 30 people who entered trusses, sprays, floral arrangements and photos in the annual Flower Show.

Future Programs

May 26, 27, 28 Wilbur's Wild Weed Walk, Illinois Valley of SW Oregon will be the focus this year. Meet at 8:00 a.m. sharp any of those days in Cave Junction at the Junction Inn for the best wild flower hikes you are ever likely to take. Led by Willamette Chapter member Wilbur Bluhm. Call June, 443-0604, for more info.

June Potluck Date to be determined: Member and guest garden tour. We will caravan to several member gardens before we go to Tom and Aileen Martin's where the Chapter will provide the main dish and members and guests will provide potluck sides, salads and desserts. After the meal we will try a new tufa pot recipe.

June 24 Humboldt Botanical Gardens will hold its annual Garden Tour and Tea. Volunteers are needed, too. For more information please call 442-5139.

Great Plants Need a Home

There are some great plants left over from the plant sale. These plants need a home in YOUR garden. The plants are being held at the Walsh's Rhody Hostel. There are some wonderful new hybrids from Scotland, some choice and rare species and many specialty companion plants. Call Tim to make arrangement to come shopping, 443-0604.