

Eureka Chapter

The next meeting
Thurs. October 25 @ 7:30 p.m.
Christ Episcopal Church
15th and H Streets
Eureka, California

5:15 p.m. Pre-Meeting No Host Dinner
Roy's Club, 2nd and D Streets, Eureka
In order to assure seating for every
one please call Nelda @ 443-8049
For reservations



OCTOBER 2007

The Wonderful World of Conifers

The **October 25th** meeting will be held at Christ Episcopal Church at 15th and H Streets in Eureka beginning at **7:30 p.m.** The highlight of the meeting will be a talk, with great pictures, by Larry Stanley and Rhodo 101, how to do cuttings with Don Wallace.

Larry Stanley owner of Stanley & Sons Nursery, Inc. in Boring, Oregon and Bob Fincham of Coenosium Gardens in Eatonville, Washington traveled to Europe in June and July of 2006. Bob is one of the founders of The American Conifer Society and was its president

for 5 years. Larry is also a past president of the American Conifer Society. So you have two official "cone-heads" on a two week trip stopping at 25 different destinations, trying to find the newest and rarest conifers. Larry and Bob visited nurseries and collectors in Holland, East Germany, Czech Republic and Austria. In their travels they saw at least 500 new plants not yet in the United States nursery trade. They meet with "The Broomers", the men and women who go out in winter to find new Hexenbesens (Witch's Brooms) in the forest and mountains. They traveled the Czech outback where they saw two private collections of conifers that have to be the largest in Europe. Larry will share photos of the people, gardens and plants of this trip and give you a taste of what's coming next.

Larry will also have plants for sale! Come with your pockets full of cash to purchase Larry's jewels of the garden.



Picture of Larry while touring.

Word of the Month

By, Bruce Palmer

This month's word was suggested by June. It's **adpressed**. The suggestion came about because Tim used the term when describing differences between rhododendrons and azaleas at the last meeting. Azaleas have adpressed hairs on the leaves, most rhododendrons don't. Adpressed is a redundant term if ever there was one.

Ad is from the Latin **a-**, to or toward and pressed is from the Latin **-pressus**, pressed against. Actually, the correct form, because **pressus** begins with a **p**, is **ap-**pressus, but **adpressus** is used more frequently in Latin plant descriptions, thus adpressed hairs. It is probably "hairs" that is the more interesting of the two terms.

Hairs on mammals and hairs on plants are entirely different structures. Mammal hairs, along with fingernails, horns, baleen in toothless whales and bird feathers are made from a protein called Keratin secreted from special cell groupings called follicles (Latin: **folliculus**, a small bag). In plants, the term follicle refers to a particular kind of fruit pod that opens on one side, as in larkspurs and milkweeds. Plant hairs by contrast with animal hairs are modified living or dead cells in the epidermis rather than secretions from live cells. Hairs on plants fall under the category of **trichomes** (Greek: **trichos**, meaning hair).

Scales on lepidote rhodies are trichomes, as are stinging cells on nettles. Plant hair cells can serve many purposes, including sun protection, water retention, insect repulsion, insect trapping as in pitcher plants, sundews and Venus' flytrap, pollination as in arums, secretions that are addictive like cannabitol and nicotine or aromatic like rosemary and sage, and as a defense in nettles. The smallest cells on roots that do most of the absorption of water and minerals for the plant are hairs with structures essentially identical to those on leaves. The term "hair" means many different things, but all hairs are essential structures to the organisms bearing them, as we humans who are "follically challenged" understand all too clearly.

*Pictures of hairs (trichomes) on azaleas are from Fred Galle's book **Azaleas**.*



KPCOFGS*

By President Tim Walsh

OK, what are the seven major categories that Linnaeus created to classify living beings? (...hint: **Keep Plates Clean Or Family Gets Sick**). The answer from last month's Rhododendron 101 is below. If you really want to impress your family and friends then you might like to memorize this helpful little sentence and use it on unsuspecting visitors to your garden! They **WILL** be impressed!

A special thanks to all of you who've renewed your membership either on time or early! The American Rhododendron Society truly needs and appreciates your support. June (ARS secretary) and I have just returned from the Eastern Regional conference that was held in Cleveland, Ohio. The Midwest Chapter played host to the organization and they are to be commended. Their chapter covers several **states** which is hard to imagine. They hold quarterly meetings and they generally have an attendance of 40 to 60 members.

We all have reasons to complain about rain and wind having an effect on our Rhodies but they **routinely** suffer temperatures exceeding **20 degrees below zero** in the winters and **several days** exceeding **100 degrees** each summer...**OUCH!** They're a hardy lot and they put on a great show and were gracious hosts. They are to be congratulated.

Among the many agenda items at the conference was a discussion about membership. This year the ARS has actually increased slightly after several years of decline. I'm optimistic that the decline in membership of all "hobby" organizations will turn and start building again in the future as the baby-boomers start to retire but surviving until that point is a cause of concern among many plant societies. I urge you to think about what caused you to join this fine group (the Eureka chapter has actually been growing) and see if there's someone you know who might like to have a good time at our meetings and actually learn a few things along the way. I learned that I need to hire **Sam Polly (owner of "Fruitful Labors" – (707) 839-9227 – spolly@dslextreme.com)** to see what's wrong with my dirt (I've managed to kill over a dozen Rhodies during the past several years).

This month **Don Wallace** will be showing us all how to make new plants from scratch and **Larry Stanley** will teach us about what are just possibly the best Rhododendron companion plants available in the world of conifers small and large. Wait until you see what's waiting for you in the colors, textures and shapes of evergreens, WOW!

So bring yourself, a friend and a few dollars for raffle tickets and plants and I promise you a very entertaining evening! **See you at 7:30 on Thursday October the 25th at the Christ Episcopal Church.**

(Answer: **Keep Plates Clean Or Family Gets Sick is the reminder for **Kingdom, Phylum, Class, Order, Family, Genus and Species** – the list in order from the most general to the individually specific living organism as given by Swedish nature scientist, Karl Linnaeus (Linnaeus being the Latinized version of his name).)*

Plant of the Month – Rhododendron agapeatum

By, Don Wallace

This little known species is so delightful. In fact that is what its name means; *agapetos*, desirable from Greek. A medium sized, mounding grower with handsome dark green leaves, this species opens for us here along the coast in March. The tubular bell-shaped flowers are a rich crimson red, measuring about 2” in length, in clusters of 10-12. It is a very precocious bloomer, and rivals any hybrid blooming at that time.

Native to upper Burma, this species is found growing between 6,000 to 7,000 ft. in elevation. *R. agapeatum* is in the section *Irroratum*, sub section *Parishii*. It has been reclassified as *R. kyawii*. This plant will grow to 5 ft. x 5 ft. in 10 years and can grow in full sun or partial shade. We have found this species to be a very hardy, tough grower with no disease or insect problems.



R. agapeatum

Photo by Don Wallace

Future Programs

November	No Meeting, have a great Thanksgiving!	
December 13, 2007	Annual Christmas Potluck	Member's Slide show ARS Conventions, Tim
January 24, 2008	Mike Stewart , China	Lepidotes - Elepidotes, Bruce and Jill
February 28, 2008	Frank Fujioka "Great Hybrids"	Feeding and Fertilizers, Don
March 27, 2008	Wilbur Bluhm, Siskiyou and Kalmiopsis area of SW Oregon and NW California Pruning Rhodies, Jill	
April 24, 2008	open	Show Trusses, Nelda
May 22, 2008	Mini-Show and Pizza night	Deer Abatement, Tim
June 15, 2008	Annual Summer Potluck	Tour of Member's Gardens

September is Membership Renewal Time

Bring your membership renewal to the October 25th meeting and get a special raffle ticket for “renewing members only” drawing. **Members who renew by mail before the October 25th meeting or bring their renewal to the October 25th meeting will be eligible for a “renewing members only” drawing...must be present to win!** If you haven't renewed yet find the stamped and addressed envelope that came with your September newsletter and send in your membership TODAY!!!!

Your renewal must be received by November 1, 2007.



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

Lions and Frogs and Bears...Oh My!!! Living with Creatures, Great and Small, In Your Garden

Humboldt Botanical Garden's Speakers' Symposium will convene at the Humboldt Area Foundation's Conference Center, 373 Indianola Road, Bayside at 9:00 A.M., Saturday, November 10, 2007. Because seating is limited, advanced registration is recommended. Event day registration will be at 8:30 A.M. with available seats filled prior to 9:00 A.M.

Roy's Club Italian Restaurant will cater a pasta lunch that is included with the registration fee of \$25 for HBGF members, \$30 for non-members and \$15 for students.

The HBGF will also present annual awards at the symposium to an individual who has contributed to horticulture: The David Douglas Award; an individual who has volunteered over a number of years to the HBGF: The Irene Van Natter Award; an individual who have volunteered over a number of years to the construction of the Humboldt Botanical Garden: The Larry E. Moss Award; and volunteers of the year.

Funds from the symposium support the HBGF and the 45 acre Humboldt Botanical Garden which is under construction adjacent to the Eureka campus of the College of the Redwoods. For more information, contact Symposium Coordinator Karen Angel at (707) 476-8764, kangel@humboldt1.com or HBGF (707) 442-5139, www.hbGF.org.

The Eureka Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society is a major supporter of the Humboldt Botanical Garden.



Eureka Chapter Officers and Board September 2007 to June 2008

Tim Walsh, President	707-443-0604	timwalsh1@suddenlink.net
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