

AMERICAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

Eureka Chapter

The next meeting

*Thursday, April 24 — 7:30 p.m.
Christ Episcopal Church
15th and H Streets
Eureka, California*

*Pre-Meeting No Host Dinner
5:15 p.m.*

*Roy's Club, 2nd and D Streets, Eureka
In order to assure seating for every one
please call Nelda @ 443-8049*



April 2008

Propagation at Rhodo Species Botanical Garden

The **April 24th** meeting of the Eureka Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society will be held at the **Christ Episcopal Church, 15th and H Streets** in Eureka at **7:30 p.m.** Our very special guest speaker is Dennis Bottemiller who will talk about his propagation work at the Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden in Federal Way, Washington.

The Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden, the Eureka Chapter is a member, has over twenty-two acres of botanical splendor and holds one of the largest collections of species rhododendrons and azaleas in the world. Gathered from across the globe, nurtured, propagated, available for both viewing pleasure and sale, the garden offers a rare opportunity for rhododendron and garden lovers everywhere.

Dennis Bottemiller (yes, he is a relative of Ron and chapter Vice President Betty Bottemiller) is a graduate of Washington State University with a degree in Production Horticulture and he first landed an internship with the Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden in Federal Way, Washington in 1987. Shortly after graduation the director at the garden called and asked if he was interested in the nursery manager position, which of course he was. Dennis stayed for about 4 years and then ran off to take care of the Seymour Botanical Conservatory in Tacoma, Washington for about 7 years. There he managed a collection of tropical plants (including rhododendrons) within a Victorian glasshouse which was built in 1907. When the



Dennis Bottemiller

opportunity arose to come back to the Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden and work with Steve Hootman he jumped at the chance and has really enjoyed being back for the past 8 years. Dennis loves working with new plants and rhododendrons not in cultivation; he finds it very exciting and challenging! When Steve Hootman comes back from a plant and seed collecting expedition it is Dennis who will propagate and germinate these treasures so that they may be shared with rhododendron lovers everywhere.

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. Title photo is Cal Chapter Best of Show by John Koelsch.

WORD OF THE MONTH

By, Bruce Palmer

The word is **MUD**. It's starting to disappear from our gardens, but that's not why mud is the word this month. Your name will be mud if you don't bring some flowers or other displays to the show this year. The term "**your name is mud**" predates Dr. Samuel Mudd and his treatment of President Lincoln's assassin, but is still relevant ever since its original use in 1823. PLEASE help us put on a good, complete show for the public on April 26 and 27. Your trusses and plants don't need to be perfect; the main object is education, not competition. You will be rewarded for your efforts this year if you participate. See Nelda's show article for details.

Rhododendron Show and Plant Sale

April 25, 26 and 27

By Nelda Palmer

Are your rhododendrons beginning to bloom? I hope the frost of the past few nights has not done too much damage. Ours seem to have survived. "Lucy Lou" and "Snow Lady" are in their full glory. "Dr. Bowman" has (had) 18 buds and blooms one of which we took to the March meeting.

It looks like a wonderful year. It would be really great if all of you could bring at least one truss to the show on April 26th and 27th. There are some benefits to both coming to the set up and sale on Friday. There will be a *member's only plant sale* as the trailer is unloaded. Imagine! First choice of the plants the Chapter has chosen for the sale. *Members will get first choice and the special price of \$8.00 per plant;* plants will be \$10.00 at the show. If you have attended some of the more recent meetings, you will know that there have been some very special plants available. Who knows what will be in the collection?

Also *every one bringing in a truss for the show will receive a free raffle ticket* for a plant drawing. And, to top it off, you will see what others are bringing in for the show. Remember, the trusses do not have to be perfect. Many of you have old or unusual rhododendrons that others would enjoy seeing. So, even if you do not believe yours is "good enough" to compete, bring it in to show its lovely color or form.

All events are St. Bernard's School, Henderson and C Streets, Eureka

Friday April 25th 3 p.m.—6 p.m. Set up

Friday April 25th 5 p.m.—7 p.m. Member Only Plant Sale

Friday April 25th 6 p.m.—9 p.m. Entries accepted, Flowers, photographs, Bonsai

Saturday April 26 7 a.m.-9 a.m. Entries accepted, Flowers, photographs, Bonsai and Flower arrangements



Plant of the Month

R. spinuliferum

Commonly known as the 'Fire Cracker Rhododendron', this species hardly looks like a rhododendron. The flowers emerge as red-orange tubular structures with the pistil protruding like a fuse. These funny looking flowers cover the shrub in profusion in late March, and seem to be immune to frosts or freezes.

Sometimes this species begins blooming in late January or in February, and continues for months. We think it is the longest blooming rhododendron there is. The foliage is heavily textured and very thin and pointed, adding to the interest. The winter foliage color can be a dark orange-purple color, giving it contrast to other evergreens. After flowering, the emerging new growth is very translucent with interesting patterns of red overlaid on the new light-

green leaves. *Rhododendron spinuliferum* was first discovered by Abbe Delavay in south Yunnan in 1891 and was named by Franchet in Paris in 1895. However this plant was introduced to cultivation by Maurice de Vilmorin in France in 1907. Hardy to 5 degrees F, this plant will fare well in our area and is an excellent choice for the North Coast Garden.

Text and Photo By Don Wallace

More...Rhododendron Show and Plant Sale

April 25, 26 and 27

By Nelda Palmer

The Flower Arrangement theme for this year is "Joy of Spring". Find that wonderful old vase or an interesting new one and make a flower arrangement featuring rhododendrons and/or azaleas for the show. We had so many new-comers last year the arrangement table looked wonderful. **Also, be sure to bring your best mounted Rhodo photos, for the photo display!** Let's do it again.

Saturday April 26 7 a.m.-9 a.m. Entries accepted, Flowers, photographs, Bonsai and Flower arrangements.



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

Eureka Chapter

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.

More...Rhododendron Show and Plant Sale
April 25, 26 and 27
Show Schedule

Friday April 25th 3 p.m.—6 p.m. Set up
 Friday April 25th 5 p.m.—7 p.m. Member Only Plant Sale
 Friday April 25th 6 p.m.– 9 p.m. Entries accepted, Flowers, photographs, Bonsai
 Saturday April 26th 7 a.m.-9 a.m. Entries accepted, Flowers, photographs, Bonsai and Flower arrangements
 Saturday April 26th 9:30 a.m. Judging begins
 Saturday April 26th 10 a.m. –5 p.m. Flower Show, Bonsai Show, Plant Sale
 Sunday April 27th 10 a.m. –4 p.m. Flower Show, Bonsai Show, Plant Sale
 Sunday April 27th 4 p.m. till we are done clean-up, then pizza for the workers!

Eureka Chapter Officers and Board Members
September 2007 to June 2008

Tim Walsh, President	707-443-0604	timwalsh1@suddenlink.net
Paula Trinoskey, Past President	707-442-6404	
Betty Bottemiller, Vice President	707-822-4935	
Bill Furst, Secretary	707-443-2679	
June Walsh, Treasurer, Membership, Newsletter	707-443-0604	RhodyHostel@suddenlink.net
Don Wallace, Programs	707-839-8777	donw@singtree.com
Bruce and Nelda Palmer, Show Co-Chairs	707-443-8049	bnpalmer@northcoast.com
Ellie Gayner, Publicity	707-443-1291	jlgayner@yahoo.com
Jerry Reynolds, Director	707-822-6580	

Nominations will be open at the April meeting. Voting will be held at the May meeting. New officers will be installed at the June Potluck.