

AMERICAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

Eureka Chapter

The next meeting

*Thursday, March 26— 7:00 p.m.
Christ Episcopal Church
15th and H Streets
Eureka, California*

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

*Samurai, 621 5th St, Eureka
Call Nelda, 707-443-8049
For a reservation to insure a seat*



March 2009

Scottish Gardens at a New Time 7:00 p.m.



***George Forrest Country –
Rhododendrons Make Their Way West***

California Chapter President, Elaine Sedlack, will be the Eureka Chapter's program speaker on Thursday March 26th at 7:00 p.m. at the Christ Episcopal Church located at 15th and H Streets in Eureka. Elaine is the President and Program Chair for the Cal (California) Chapter. She has spent 25 years as a horticulturist caring for and developing the Asian Collection, and two herb gardens, at the UC Botanical Garden at Berkeley.

Elaine's presentation will focus on George Forrest and the travails of plant collecting in the early 20th Century and the wonderful plants he helped to bring into western gardens. Elaine's program will have pictures of the Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh, Scotland which is one of the most beautifully kept gardens in the world. It was one of the major centers of discovery and distribution of the diverse and beautiful genus *Rhododendron*. Elaine also visited the Dawick Arboretum on the Scottish Borders, the newest satellite garden of the Royal Botanic Gardens. Dawick has extensive plantings of rhododendrons, many of which were collected specifically for this site.

Elaine has traveled to China and Japan, and speaks Mandarin, although she says not so fluently now. She was born in Oakland and grew up in El Cerrito, California. Her gardening adventures have been informed by an art background. Besides Rhododendrons she loves Asian maples, train rides (to visit my daughter and grandsons), and wilderness.

Elaine Sedlack is pictured above with Eureka Chapter President Tim Walsh in the Asian Collection of UC Botanical Garden Berkeley.

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.

It is the first mild day of March:
Each minute sweeter than before,
The redbreast sings from the tall larch
That stands beside our door.
William Wordsworth (1770–1850)

Remember that there is nothing stable in human affairs; therefore avoid undue elation in prosperity, or undue depression on adversity.
Socrates (469– 399 b.c.)



Plant of the Month:

Rhododendron 'Meadowgold'

Beautiful rich-yellow flowers smother this March blooming rhododendron, making it a nice addition to the red or pink flowers usually seen this month. Hybridized and registered by Robert Scott in 1976, it is a hybrid between the yellow flowering species *Rhododendron burmanicum* and the yellow flowering hybrid *Rhododendron 'Lemon Mist'*. The flowers are frost tender, and will turn to brown after a late frost, but in milder years it is a winner. The plant grows wider than tall, usually less than 2 ft. tall and 3-4 ft. wide.

'Meadowgold' is popular with foliage nuts because of its cute rounded leaves that have lots of little 'eyelashes' around the edges. The flower buds are very round, and when it begins to open a very interesting texture is created by the yellow petals behind dark brown bud scales. Also, as

with other *Rhododendron burmanicum* hybrids, the bark resembles Manzanita with a reddish peeling character. Plant *Rhododendron 'Meadowgold'* with *Rhododendron 'PJM'* for a color show that will have your neighbors talking.

Photo and Text by Don Wallace.

Rhododendron Flower Show and Plant Sale

Mark your calendars for the Eureka Chapter's 37th annual Rhododendron show and plant sale April 25th and 26th. Entries will be accepted from members and the public on Friday April 24th from 6-9:30 p.m. and Saturday April 25th from 7-9 a.m. Late entries will be displayed on a separate table not for judging.

Encourage your neighbors to enter the flower show, photographic show and flower arrangement display. ***Each entry will get one raffle ticket, raffle will be for one gallon rhododendron plants and will be held at the May 28th Mini-Show and Pizza party.*** You need not be present to win, but you will get best choice if you are there.

Changes Made in Show Rules

By Jerry Reynolds

There have been some changes in the rules affecting photographic entries and flower arrangements in the annual truss show.

Photographs must be mounted or matted prints. No frames will be allowed. The number of entries in this class has been increasing the past two or three years and eliminating the frames will allow more space for photos as well eliminate the possibility of broken glass should the heavier framed entries fall.

There have also been some problems with arrangements being moved to make room for other entries. So a new rule has been added to permit only the original entrant to move an arrangement after it has been placed.

To make sure there is adequate space to accommodate the arrangements, all those planning to enter arrangements must call Carol Dunning (442-7090) by April 23 (you can also tell Carol at the meeting that evening). She will work with show chairs Bruce and Nelda Palmer to make sure there are enough tables for all entries.

Other changes this year include consolidating a number of groups in the Species (Class 1) entries and the elimination of a couple of groups in the Hybrids (Class 2). As a result, a number of changes have been made in the entry key lists for both the species and hybrids, so be sure to check the show rule book when completing your entry forms.



Both show booklets and entry forms will be available at the March 26 meeting.

If you are not able to attend the March 26th or the April 23rd meeting to pick up a Show Book and entry forms call June Walsh (443-0604) she can arrange delivery or mail the tags and book to you.



Each entry will get one raffle ticket, the raffle will be for one-gallon rhododendron plants and will be held at the May 28th Mini-Show and Pizza party. You

need not be present to win, but you will get best choice if you are there.

Photos are of the 2008 show. The new grid system (top photo) has encouraged many more photo entries.

Preparing your flower trusses for the show.

By Dennis McKiver, Noyo Chapter

(Dennis and wife Valerie have served as judges for the Eureka Chapter's shows. Dennis provided the photos.)

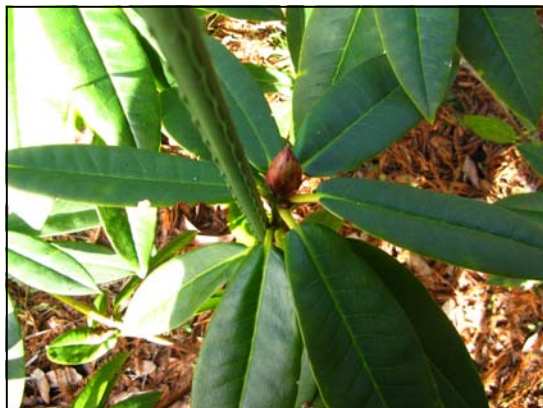


Judges like upright terminal trusses and perfect whorls of leaves. So, I look for those terminal buds that have good leaves. I then groom the buds and leaf whorls to make them even better. I remove any extra flower buds (hammer heads) and I remove any unnecessary leaves that throw off the balance of the whorl. I also remove any leaf buds that form under the flower bud and could push the flower bud over so it doesn't open upright. This is especially necessary on those rhododendrons whose new leaves have a tendency to emerge prior to the flower buds opening. *Photos at left show Mrs Furnival; top before grooming below after grooming.)*



If I don't have any good terminal buds forming? If I have good buds and leaves forming on lower branches I may use stakes to train these into upright straight stems. *(Third photo to the left shows the stake)*

Ironite or Epsoms Salts can be applied now to eliminate deficiency that shows up as yellowing of the leaves with the veins still green: "Christmas tree" effect. Also treat for weevils, slugs, etc. *(The bottom photo shows yellow leaves that should be treated with iron)*



Just before the show I look at the weather report. If it looks like rain may damage some blooms just before the show I will move them under cover if they are in containers or pick the trusses early and let them open in the house or garage. Some flower trusses, such as 'Tahitian Dawn' and 'Black Sport', never seem to open fully without blemishes if left to open in the sun. These I will pick early and allow them to finish opening in a vase in the house. For the rest of the trusses I will enter, I start doing the final selection the week before the show. Then the week of the show I start picking fully open trusses about Tuesday. From experience I know that some trusses will last in good shape a week or two in a vase. These I pick as soon as they are fully open and looking good to avoid potential weather damage. Those flower trusses that don't last as long I save until the last day to pick. I usually have everything that I will be entering picked by Friday morning.



Those trusses that hold well can be entered the evening of Friday set up. If you have more delicate trusses they can be entered on Saturday morning. Be sure they are in before the cutoff time.

I hope this helps you with your entries.

Let the festivities begin!

By President *Tim Walsh*

Being one of the world's most fortunate beings, I sit overlooking the Pacific Ocean watching the sun set on the beginnings of my lifetime project as I write this note. Several years back, June and I were in the lucky position to acquire about 15 acres of hillside property adjoining our house overlooking Humboldt Bay and the ocean beyond. I've just finished moving about 10% of the plants that I've collected (... June would say "hoarded"...) over the past several years into the beginnings of what I presume will be my lifetime project.

Despite some of Humboldt County's worst soil (the soil test company used the word "toxic" twice in its report!) I'm trying to make a garden that includes many of the best forms of *Rhododendron mad-deni* as well as the supporting cast. Emerging the past couple of weeks are *Trillium chloropetalum* "Volcano", several varieties of *Anemone*, a number of *Rhodies* and, of course, the stirrings of my other favorite genus, *Meconopsis* poppies.

The sometimes glorious weather of late February brought the outrageous flowers of *Magnolia* "Caerhay's Belle" and several early *Camellias*. The winds that followed snuffed out nearly everything, but that's the fickle weather around Humboldt Bay, still one of the best places on earth to live!

Humboldt Botanical Garden's Temperate Woodland Garden is starting to show the potential that a number of us have envisioned since the beginnings in 1991! Come out on any Saturday between 10:00 A.M. & 2:00 P.M. for a visit! Currently it's free and you'll see a fabulous one-acre "Rhododendron" garden that showcases what many in the world would envy! The *Magnolia denudata* allée has started to bloom only 9 months after planting and the early show of *Rhodies* includes *Rh. arboreum* "Leonardslee", species *Rhododendrons leucaspis*, *kiusianum*, and *pachysanthum* and *Rhododendron* hybrid "Noyo Dream" with lots more to come! Several of the azalea series called the "Encore Azaleas" are just starting. This series tends to have flowers virtually year-round especially in our climate and I'll guarantee you that you haven't seen them in Humboldt County (they're that new)!

Along with a number of volunteers we've just finished planting a number of specialty trees including several forms of *Styrax*, a couple of forms of *Katsura* (*Cercidiphyllum japonicum* species), a number



Acer palmatum "Ueno Yama"



Magnolia denudata

of forms of our native *Rhododendron occidentale* as well as a number of unusual *Hydrangeas*. The list continues, and I hope that you will set aside some time to visit the Humboldt Botanical Garden. Bring friends and relatives...

VOLUNTEER! These are the early days of what is envisioned as our own, local "world class" botanical garden. I have no doubt that it will become exactly that because of our unique climate and special site.

Oh, by the way, you are in for a real treat at our next meeting! Elaine Sedlack is a longtime friend of ours and she's bringing an encyclopedia of knowledge with her to our chapter! Elaine is "curator" of a large portion of the Himalayan portion of the University of California, Berkeley Botanical Garden as well as the chapter president of the Cal Chapter of the ARS. Elaine is uniquely knowledgeable and passionate about plants; she's passionate about her job and I PROMISE YOU that you'll come away from her presentation about *Rhododendrons* and their supporting cast with new appreciation! Don't miss this great and knowledgeable speaker and bring your questions and concerns. Elaine knows it all!

Now, get out there and tend your babies!

Happy Spring, Tim



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.



Scottish Gardens
 May 2007
 Upper left, Tim with a REAL Big Leaf Rhodo.



Upper right, a renovated walled garden, complete with warming chimneys.



Lower left, follies in the near view



Lower right, sculpture with the far view.

**Eureka Chapter Officers and Board Members
 September 2007 to June 2008**

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|---|--------------|----------------------------|
| 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 | |