

AMERICAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

*Eureka Chapter*

*The next meeting*  
**Wednesday Oct. 21, 7:00 p.m.**  
Woman's Club  
1531 J Street  
Eureka, California

*Pre-Meeting No Host Dinner 5:15*  
*Sea Grill @ 316 E St.*  
*Eureka, Call Nelda, 707-443-8049*  
*For a reservation*  
*There is limited seating!*



R. 'Lem's Tangerine'

**October 2009**

**Mike Stewart Pacific Coast Hybridizers' Legacy**

The October meeting of the Eureka Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society will be held **Wednesday October 21st at 7:00 p.m.** at The Woman's Club, 1531 J Street in Eureka. ***This meeting is on Wednesday!***

Mike Stewart, who spoke at the Eureka Chapter a year ago to much acclaim, is past president of the American Rhododendron Society, and recent Gold Medal honoree, will be the guest speaker. He and his wife Maria own and operate Dover Nursery a wholesale rhododendron nursery in Sandy, Oregon where they grow over 600 varieties of rhododendrons including about 100 different species. They ship over 40,000 plants throughout the US each year. In addition to ARS President Mike has held numerous positions in the American Rhododendron Society including Portland Chapter President, Treasurer; ARS Vice President, ARS Membership Chairman, ARS Nomination Chairman, and Research Foundation Trustee.



Mike was a major contributor to the book *The Pacific Rhododendron Story* with Sonja Nelson and the Portland Chapter. Mike's presentation the ***Pacific Coast Hybridizers: the Legacy Continues*** will focus on the great Pacific Coast hybridizers past work and future goals. Among the hybridizers he will honor are Frank Fujioka, Jim Barlup Harold Greer and our own Don Wallace. As his China program was so well received last year Mike will take you on a brief trip back to his and Maria's trip with the Rhododendron Species Foundation.

*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.*

## Plant of the Month *Rhododendron sinogrande*

*By Don Wallace*

This rhododendron is a magnificent survivor of a primitive time when the lushness of plants and flowers was unimaginable. Found in the Grande Series, this species has the largest leaves in the genus, becoming 3 feet long and a foot wide. It is true that *Rhododendron sinogrande* will create a startling effect of tropical grandeur and exotic luxuriance in anyone's garden. Over time this plant will grow into a heavy, stiff-limbed tree to 30 feet, so one must have room for it to spread. In the spring, the new growth begins with huge shoots elongating and opening into the new leaves, which are covered with a silvery-white scurf. The coating disappears as the leaves expand, revealing a shiny, textured surface with the veins sharply etched. The underside has a silvery, plastered indumentum coating. Flowering will take some years to occur, but will be worth the wait. The leaf buds are most always mistaken for flower buds, but when a flower bud does develop, it will be large and round. The resulting flowers are ivory to a soft yellow with a crimson blotch in the throat, in trusses 10 inches across with 20-30 bell-shaped flowers piled upon each other. This species is best situated in a sheltered spot from wind and direct sun, as the leaves can burn or become shredded by



wind. Native to Yunnan province of China in forests at 10,000 – 14,000 feet of elevation, but is also found in Tibet and Burma (Myanmar). *Rhododendron sinogrande* was discovered and introduced by George Forrest in 1912-1913. It won the A.M. award in 1922, and the F.C.C. award in 1926. Both are British awards for outstanding plant merit.

**Bring a guest get a plant!** Last month we had the biggest meeting ever because so many members brought guests. We also had 5 of those guests join; new members also get a plant. **Bring a guest get a plant!** program seems to be a winner. Please call to let us know if you will be bringing a guest so we will have enough plants...we ran out in September! Everyone who missed out on their plant will receive it at the Wednesday October 21st meeting.

## Word of the Month

*By Bruce Palmer*

This month's word is calyx. It comes from the Greek word Kalyx, a husk or a cup. The word for a cup, chalice, descends from the same root via the Latin calix. The calyx is the outer group of modified leaves that usually surround the reproductive parts of a flower. Typically, the calyx is green and not brightly colored, but it can be, especially in hybridized flowers. A number of Don Wallace's new hybrids have especially great looking calices. The calyx is usually divided into separate parts called sepals (Latin: a covering) which enclose the flower bud before it opens. When the flower opens the inner group of modified leaves, the corolla (Latin: corona, a crown) is revealed. Usually the corolla is brightly colored, often with distinct ultra-violet marks, to attract pollinators. Most of the time the co-



*Menziesia ciliicalyx*

rolla is divided into separate petals (Greek: petalon, a leaf) which often have scent glands at their bases to attract insects and other pollinators such as birds. The scents can be sweet to attract such pollinators as bees, rotten to attract flies, or scentless in flowers pollinated by birds. When sepals and petals cannot be told apart, they are all called tepals ( a made-up word with no Latin or Greek origin). Often plants derive their scientific names from these flower parts as in *Rhododendron ciliicalyx*, "red tree with a hairy calyx".



Members Tim Walsh, Philip and Barbara O'Hay at Humboldt Botanical Garden in September



Susan Harrison, Carol Clarke and Gretchen Howard plant a cherry tree to honor their mother, Janie Walsh



Member Eris McCarthy



Member Nova Cramer on the right with a friend



Members Paula and Verne Trinoskey

## **Eureka Chapter, American Rhododendron Society Meeting Minutes for September 24, 2009**

The meeting was called to order at 6:40 p.m. by President **Betty Bottemiller**. First order of business was to load plates with pizza, salads, and side dishes. While the members and guests were eating, **Don Wallace** described all the raffle plants. During the meal, the sign-in sheet was circulated and raffle tickets were sold.

After dinner and dessert, Rhododendron flower trusses were shared. Also, a **Cercis Canadensis** and **Franklinia** were shared by **Dee Daneri** for fall foliage color.

All members bringing a guest were eligible for a free plant. Guests this meeting included: **Dorothy Nicholson** brought by **Marilyn Martino**, **Steve and Margaret Cole** brought by **Joanne and Gary Todoroff**, **Marie-Louise DeSouza**, **Bruce Hutton**, **Audrey Thurmond**, **Marilyn Morris**, **Robert Twiss** brought by **Betty Bottemiller**, **Wyatt Ledbetter** brought by **Jean Timmerman**, **Tiffany DeVault** brought by **Sandra Dupret**, **Wendy Crews**, **Sharon Hunter**, **Charles Vaughn**, and **Gail Morrison**. There were so many members bringing guests that several had to take a rain check on getting their free plant.

June Walsh announced that the new location of the Woman's Club at 1531 J Street is paid for through the May 2010 meeting. She also reminded members that dues would be collected any time during the meeting for those who had not already mailed them in. Visitors were invited to become members and get their own free plant.

New members receive a plant...we had some rain checks here too! Please welcome our New Members;

**Steve and Margaret Cole, Arcata**

**Tiffany DeVault, Fortuna**

**Marilyn Morris, Arcata**

**John and Gail Morrison, Fortuna**

**Dorothy Nicholson, Fortuna**

A list was passed around for volunteers to bring snacks to the meetings this year. **Nelda Palmer** stated that there is a \$40 limit on snack reimbursement from the club.

**Tim Walsh** introduced **Don Wallace** as the speaker. Don did a presentation titled "Creating a Display Garden Nursery" which chronicled how his nursery came into being and the transitions it went through. His slides included many 'before and after' photos of the plot and plantings.

**Nelda Palmer** presented trophies from the April 2009 Show to those winners who were present.

**Bruce Palmer** won the door prize. Raffle winners included **John Hemmann**, **Marie-Louise DeSouza**, **Ursula Lowther**, **Robert Twiss** (several times!), **Dee Daneri**, **Trish Gidding-Ortiz** and **Lynn Sarty**.

The meeting was adjourned and clean-up ensued.

Respectfully submitted, **Trish Gidding-Ortiz**, Secretary

# Membership Renewal

If you have not sent in your membership renewal, do it now!!! There is a stamp on the renewal envelope that you received last month. All you have to do is put your check in the envelope and send it...today! The Renewal deadline is November 15th. Call June if you have any questions: 707-443-0604

## *Vice-President's Corner*

*By Tim Walsh*

Thanks to all of you for showing up at our first meeting of the Rhododendron year, your presence was overwhelming! Really, this is the largest attendance at a meeting that we've ever had as far as we can tell and we are heartened by it. There were at least 71 attendees and, other than not having enough free plants to go around for our newly-established "*bring-a-guest-get-a-plant*" program, it all went off without a hitch! There may have been a few of us who didn't make it back to the desert area for that favorite piece of pie that they spied, but there was enough pizza for everyone who wanted some; thanks to all of you who brought goodies, they were exceptional!

Speaking of exceptional, Don Wallace did a great job as speaker! Don's Singing Tree Gardens Nursery is an exceptional place to visit not only for the choice of both common and rare plants but for their fabulous display garden which is, by itself, worth the trip...and now YOU know how to do it in your yard!

Your president, Betty Bottemiller, is still working through health problems in the family so she will not be able to attend the October meeting but things appear to be getting better for the Bottemiller family. I think she did a great job leading the first meeting and we hope to have her back soon to lead us through the rest of the year.

Finally, Mike Stewart is putting on our program this month; Oh Boy! For those who were lucky enough to see his last program you'll have the opportunity to see not only part two, but you'll get the inside scoop on the latest and best of what's coming in the Rhododendron world with his focus on the Pacific Coast hybridizers. Mike really knows his stuff, he's a great speaker and a great photographer and you will not go away disappointed.

June and I will be attending the ARS Fall Conference in Lionville, PA so we will miss Mike and Maria but we look forward to our Christmas Potluck which is just around the corner. How about a great gift idea...bring a guest to the October meeting and win a free Rhododendron to give to someone special for Christmas! It'll be a gift that will only get better!!!



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

<b>Wednesday October 21, 2009, 7:00 p.m.</b>	Mike Stewart, Traveling in China
<b>No Meeting in November</b>	Have a Happy Thanksgiving
<b>Thursday December 10, 2009, 6:30 p.m.</b>	Holiday Potluck
<b>Thursday January 28, 2010, 7:00 p.m.</b>	Mike Bones, Bonsai
<b>Thursday February 25, 2010 7:00 p.m.</b>	Don Selcer, Plant Hunting in Sikkim
<b>Thursday March 25, 2010 7:00 p.m.</b>	Gary Todoroff, Garden Photography
<b>Thursday April 22, 2010 7:00 p.m.</b>	Fred Whitney, ARS Past President, Gardens
<b>April 23 through April 25, 2010</b>	Rhododendron Show and Plant Sale
<b>Thursday May 27, 2010 6:30 p.m.</b>	Pizza and Mini Show
<b>Sunday June 13, 2010</b>	Garden Tour and Potluck Picnic

***New meeting Location. We will be meeting at the Woman's Club at 1531 J Street in Eureka unless otherwise announced. Programs are subject to change.***

Humboldt Botanical Garden is open Saturdays from 10 to 2. The garden is located just North of College of the Redwoods, take the Tompkins Hill exit off Highway 101 then turn left at the North Gate of College of the Redwoods. Garden parking is to the left, the garden gate is to the right of the garden signage. Just inside the gate (gate is kept closed to keep deer out!) is a sign-in box. Want a tour? Call June and Tim 707-443-0604.

### Eureka Chapter Officers and Board Members September 2009 to June 2010

Betty Bottemiller, President	707-822-4935	elizabethbottemiller@yahoo.com
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