

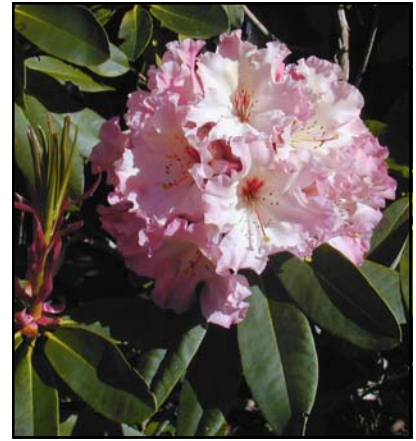
AMERICAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

Eureka Chapter

The next meeting

*Thursday February 25, 7:00 p.m.
Woman's Club
1531 J Street
Eureka, California*

*Pre-Meeting No Host Dinner 5:15
Gonsea, 2335 4th Street, near Target
Eureka, Call Nelda, 707-443-8049
For a reservation so there will be enough
seating*



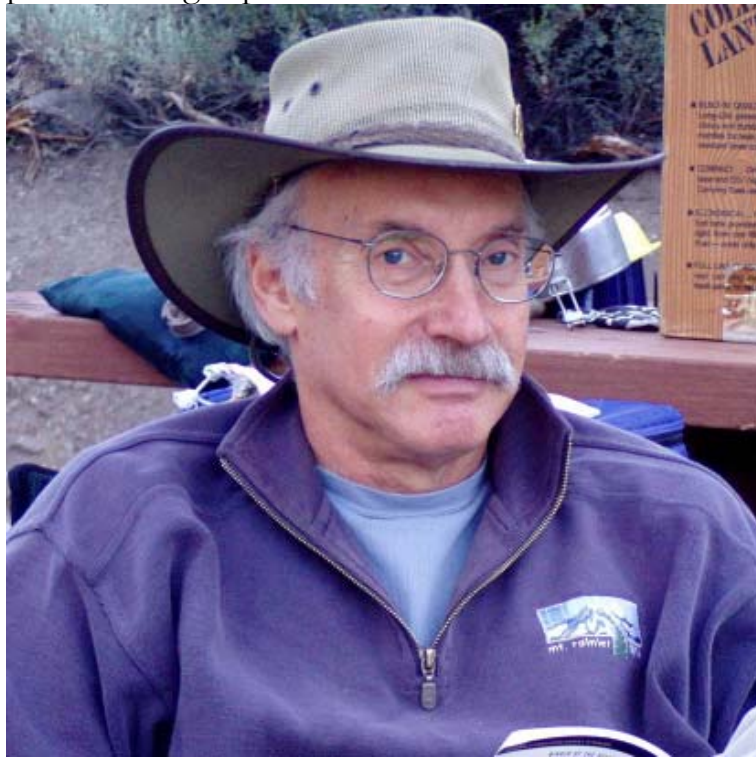
February 2010

Plant Hunting in Sikkim, India, China and Beyond

The Eureka Chapter will meet Thursday February 25th at 7:00p.m. at the Woman's Club 1531 J Street in Eureka. The guest speaker will be Dr. Don Selcer who has traveled to many of the Rhododendron Meccas of the world. Don is from Cleveland, Ohio, the home of Holden Arboretum and the Leach Rhododendron Research Station, but it wasn't until after moving to California in 1972 for pediatric residency training that he discovered gardening.

Don has been gardening with rhodies since the early 80's, mainly growing species from seed on his steep, wooded residential lot in Oakland. He was one of the key organizers of the April 2007 ARS Convention in San Francisco and is a active member of the California Chapter.

Don has always enjoyed photography, backpacking and collecting things. Rhododendron plant hunting trips combined all of his interests. Don traveled to Sikkim and India with Britt



Smith on an American Rhododendron Society trip in 1992. He also went to Yunnan, China on a trip led by Graham Smith (Pukeiti) and other New Zealanders in 1999. Most recently he went on a Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden trip with Steve Hootman on a collecting expedition in fall 2001 to another part of Yunnan--this one to explore the Dulong River Valley which had not seen Westerners for 80 years.

Don's photography will bring you up close to the native habitat of some of our favorite plants, all from the comfort of a Chapter meeting.

Photo provided by Don Selcer

Photos are those of the Newsletter editor, June Walsb, unless otherwise noted. Permission is granted to reprint any portion of this publication provided credit to the author and Chapter is given.



Rh. auriculatum

The Word of the Month

By Bruce Palmer

This month's word is an unabashed sales pitch. The chapter has quite a few large specimens of *Rhododendron auriculatum* for sale at \$25 each, with the proceeds going to good causes. June Walsh has an article in this newsletter with the details. The species (species is always spelled with an s; specie is money) name is a good word for this month because it illustrates two important ideas in taxonomy, the process of naming plants.

First, the species name *auriculatum* is descriptive. It derives from the Latin *auricula*, meaning little ear. The name spotlights the fact that the leaves, which are quite large, are lobed at the base on both sides. Species names that describe something about a plant are preferred to those that are named after someone. There isn't a hard and fast rule against naming a plant species after someone and if you do there are rules for the ending of the species name. The practice of using peoples' names has persisted despite being frowned on, but it is always more interesting to look at a descriptive species name and try to figure out what it is describing.

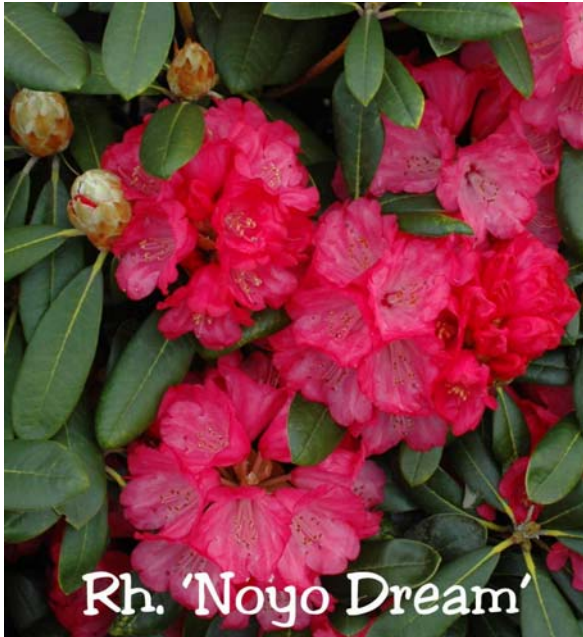
The second point about the word is that it is not capitalized. The species name is never capitalized, even when it is named after someone. *R. augustinii*, named after Augustine Henry, a British Customs Officer in China, its discoverer, is a case in point. *R. augustinii* comes right before *R. auriculatum* in Leach's *Rhododendrons of the World*, an old (1961) but still valuable book. Lots of copies are available at places like Powell's Books in Portland; Amazon currently shows two new and fifteen used copies. The line drawing on page 128 emphasizes the "earlobes" at the base of the *R. auriculatum* leaf.

Don Wallace used *R. auriculatum* as the plant of the month when the chapter first received them as a donation from Dan Meier of Briggs Nursery last May. It's worth repeating some of Don's description; you'll want one when you know about it. *R. auriculatum* is a late bloomer, in mid-summer, with very large, usually white, fragrant blossoms. It blooms when the dahlias are just coming out and when the roses are passing their prime. All of us should have this one in our gardens if for no other reason than to extend the *Rhododendron* season. Get yours at the meeting while supplies last. These are big plants at a very special price of \$25. You can also call Tim Walsh 707-443-0604 for special delivery.

Plant of the Month
Rhododendron 'Noyo Dream'

Text and Photo by Don Wallace

Rated as our best semi-dwarf rhododendron, 'Noyo Dream' makes a perfect mounded plant with dark-green leaves in our fields. This excellent hybrid was created by Bill Moyles of Oakland, CA. It is a cross of *Rhododendron degronianum* ssp. *yakushmanum* x *Rh. arboreum* ssp. *delavayi*. *Rhododendron degronianum* ssp. *yakushmanum* is a compact dwarf rhododendron native to Yakushima Island in the Japanese island chain, and has light pink flowers that fade to white. The *Rhododendron arboreum* ssp. *delavayi* has blood red flowers, and will grow to 6 ft. in 10 years. The cross has resulted in a bright, rich pink flowering rhododendron that will grow to 4 ft. tall in 10 years, and blooms in February. The foliage is a very attractive shiny dark-green with a soft suede indumentum under, and has



an oblong to obtuse shape. The indumentum has been found to deter insects, and is a plus for collectors. The flowers are in almost perfect round trusses, opening a rich dark magenta color, then fading to medium pink on the outside of the flower and almost white on the inside, creating a 'picotee' look. There is even a dark red spot in the throat adding to the interest of the flowers. Plant with *Rhododendron 'President Roosevelt'*, *Rhododendron 'Christmas Cheer'* and *Rhododendron 'Pink Delight'* for the best "early show" in the garden.

10-10-10

If **10-10-10** sounds like a balanced fertilizer for your Rhodies, it is also the key to fertilizer for Rhodie gardeners. October **8, 9 and 10, 2010** will be the American Rhododendron Society's Western Regional Conference which will be held in Florence, Oregon. The Siuslaw Chapter will host the conference and will have the official conference website up and running in a couple of months. So mark your calendars for the 10-10-10 Western Regional Conference just up the coast from Eureka in Florence.

**Eureka Chapter, American Rhododendron Society
General Meeting Minutes for January 28, 2010**

The meeting was called to order at 7:15 p.m. by Vice-President Tim Walsh, who was filling in for President Bottemiller. Tim announced that there were free old ARS journals on the back table, as well as Horticulture magazines for \$2 a bundle. Some members volunteered to bring in other magazines to share.

Announcements (More information is provided in the ARS Journal, Winter 2010):

The Western Regional Conference will be held in Florence, Oregon on October 7-10, 2010.

The ARS Annual Convention, District 7, will be held in Long Island, New York, May 14-17, 2010.

ARS Rhododendron of the Year awards for 2009 are available for viewing online at www.rhododendron.org. Winners included R. 'Seaview Sunset' and 'Too Bee'.

Guest attendees included Kathy and George Burchett, and Catie Mancuso, guests of Tim and June Walsh; and Genell Fitch, guest of Charles Vaughn. Members who brought the guests were given a free plant. June Walsh gave her free plant to her guests, the Kathy and George Burchett.

Don Wallace, Tim Walsh, and Bruce Palmer showed off rhododendron trusses in bloom. Tim also brought a camellia, named 'Donation,' that resists blight.

Don Wallace did a slide show presentation of the night's raffle plants.

Tim introduced the guest speaker, Mike Bones, a former park ranger, ARS member, and bonsai aficionado. Mike gave an informative and entertaining presentation on bonsai – both traditional and unorthodox, aka, "Bonesai." Mike stated that while the traditional plant for bonsai are often evergreens, he also likes to use blooming plants, such as azalea species *R. glaucophyllum*. He gave his tips on watering, trimming (Oh my, and did he trim!), tools, and soil mix. Inexpensive tools included a bent kitchen fork for a soil rake, a bread knife for cutting root balls, a lazy-susan turntable for rotating plants while trimming, and old mesh netting to cover the holes in pots. He recommended dwarf rhododendrons and azaleas for an easy start into bonsai. Our thanks to Mike for making the trip down from Oregon and regaling us with his own personal motto of bonsai: "Do what looks good to you."

Our thanks to Nelda and Bruce Palmer for bringing this month's treats.

Plant raffle prizes and winners were as follows:

Plants	10yr ht.	Blossom color	Raffle winner
Pomegranate Splash	5'	white w/ red edges	Sue Benzinger
Coastal Spice	5'	white and scented	Jean Guthrie
Black Magic	4-5'	dark red	Ursula Lowther
True Blue	4	violet blue	Ursula Lowther
<i>R. racemosum</i>	4-5'	pink	Mary Benzinger
Heavenly Trumpets	6'	pink	Ursula Lowther
Winter Sun	4'	yel/wh/pink	Genell Fitch
Cornubia	6-8'	red	Marylin Batt
Kaye Player	3'	pink	Doug Batt
Yak X Carmen	2'	red	Michael Goodwill
Wren	2'	yellow	Mary Alice Hoyle
Patriot's Dream	1'	blood red	Sharon Hunter
Eruption	6'	lt pnk/magenta edge	Dolores Miller
Tillandsia (air plant)			Vivian Ziegler

The door prizes were: R. 'Seta,' won by Sue Hemmann, azalea *R. glaucophyllum*, won by Sue Benzinger, and a Mike Bones bonsai, won by Nelda Palmer.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Trish Gidding-Ortiz, Secretary

The Eureka Chapter Makes Gifts

Last spring the Eureka Chapter received a donation of a big trailer full of 10 gallon Rhododendron auriculatum from Dan Meier of Briggs Nursery. Dan and Briggs made the donation to assist the Eureka Chapter to raise money for the American Rhododendron Society and for the Humboldt Botanical Garden. To date Eureka Chapter has sold plants valued at \$725. The Eureka Chapter donation to the American Rhododendron Society General Fund was \$242 and for Humboldt Botanical Gardens was \$242.

We appreciate and gratefully acknowledge Dan Meier's and Briggs Nursery's generous donation to the Eureka Chapter to support this fund raising effort.

Thoughts from Vice President Tim Walsh: Is it just me, or are there others out there who find February into March the true "gardening" part of the year? June and I are fortunate to garden on a large parcel (over 15 acres) and now is the time for planting and starting seeds. I just noticed that "the switch" was thrown on the Valentine's Day and leaves started to unfurl and foliage started pushing up from underground from our deciduous trees and perennial plants. I'm happy to report that most of my Meconopsis plants (my second-favorite plants) have survived the winter and most are starting this year with more stems than last year. It's the first year that this has happened on this scale so I am very excited and hope to be able to share some plants with you in the year ahead!

It also seems like an "early" year for our Rhodies as well; early by at least a couple of weeks compared to most years. R. "Noyo Brave" is already showing color and R. chrysodoron (a fabulous bright yellow species) finished blooming about a week ago after a show that started in late December for us.

Planting Rhododendrons, trees, shrubs and dormant perennials is something that I look forward to every year at this time. We've had plenty of clear, cool, dry days this month (as we usually do) and the ground is starting to stir. It's exciting!

A special thanks to your Eureka Chapter board members for a job well done! You have a great crew who "make things happen" with a lot of hard work. You may notice that you have some new name badges. That is the result of a number of discussions and a lot of re-design work. Special thanks to Doug Batt, Bruce Palmer, Don Wallace and June Walsh for what I think are the best badges I've ever seen! Good job folks! How would YOU like to help plan and execute the agenda? We would love to have your input or, even better, your presence on the board of directors! Tim

Anthrophobia, Fear of flowers

Rupophobia, Fear of dirt

Seplophobia, Fear of decaying matter, compost heap

Lachanophobia, Fear of vegetables, i.e. broccoli, squash, carrots

Botanophobia, Fear of plants

Scoleciphobia, Fear of worms



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

Thursday February 25, 2010 7:00 p.m.

Don Selcer, Plant Hunting in Sikkim and Beyond

Thursday March 25, 2010 7:00 p.m.

Gary Todoroff, Garden Photography

Thursday April 22, 2010 7:00 p.m.

Fred Whitney, Great Gardens visited

April 23 through April 25, 2010

Rhododendron Show and Plant Sale

Sunday May 23rd

Humboldt Botanical Garden, Temperate Woodland Garden dedication, Plant Sale

Thursday May 27, 2010 6:30 p.m.

Pizza and Mini Show

Sunday June 13, 2010

Garden Tour and Potluck Picnic

October 8 to 10

Western Regional ARS Conference, Florence Oregon

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.

Eureka Chapter Officers and Board Members

September 2009 to June 2010

Betty Bottemiller, President	707-822-4935	elizabethbottemiller@yahoo.com
Tim Walsh, Vice President	707-443-0604	timwalsh1@suddenlink.net
Trish Ortiz, Secretary	707-822-3330	tgiddingortiz@gmail.com
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Don Wallace, Programs	707-839-8777	donw@singtree.com
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