

AMERICAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

Eureka Chapter

The next meeting

Thursday January 28th @ 7:00 p.m.
Woman's Club
1531 J Street
Eureka, California

Pre-Meeting No Host Dinner

Banana Hut
621 5th St. Eureka
Call Nelda, 707-443-8049 for a
reservation so there will be enough seating



January 2010

Mike Bones, Using Rhododendrons as Bonsai



Mike Bones will share his knowledge of rhododendrons and how to choose the best ones for use as Bonsai at the **Thursday January 28th** meeting at the **Woman's Club**, 1531 J Street in Eureka.

Mike has been growing Rhododendrons for 48 years and has run Bones' Rhododendron Nursery for more than 30 years. Since retiring from his career of 30 years in the Oregon State Parks system he now has a part time job of greeter at the Indian casino in his home town of Florence, Oregon. His stipulation for working at the casino as greeter was that he wear his signature shorts, being very proud of his legs.

Mike was the Membership Committee chair for the American Rhododendron Society. Mike and his wife Kathy have put the Siuslaw Chapter in Florence, Oregon on the rhodo map; they have been the royalty of Florence's spring Rhododendron Festival. Local interest in rhododendrons has grown as has the Siuslaw Chapter with his energetic support and enthusiasm.

Mike will talk about rhododendrons and how you can have fun using them for the Japanese art of Bonsai. Mike's programs are uncommonly entertaining and educational.

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. The photo rhodos above was taken by Tim Walsh. The yellow one is vireya R. laetum, the pink is also a vireya R. 'Kurt Herbert Adler' which has a strong clove fragrance. They have been blooming since Oct.

Eureka Chapter, American Rhododendron Society General Meeting Minutes for December 10, 2009

The meeting was called to order at 6:15 p.m. by Vice-President Tim Walsh with a call to begin serving. Potluck dinner and desserts were provided by the members.

While members were enjoying their meal, Tim showed off a species Rhododendron, *Vireya laetum*, which produces a true yellow blossom (see page 1 photo).

A formal presentation was then made of the American Rhododendron Society's Bronze Medal to Ellie Gayner in recognition of her efforts on behalf of the Eureka Chapter. See the citation on page 3.

After members had gotten their dessert, two presentations were made. Tim Walsh's program was titled, "A Love Affair with the American Rhododendron Society," which included his reasons for joining and continuing to enjoy belonging to the ARS. Then Don Wallace gave a program on hybridizing Rhododendrons. His slides included photos of the reproductive parts of the flowers and a step-by-step explanation of how to cross-pollinate. He then showed samples of what the offspring look like for a given set of seed and pollen parents.

Raffle tickets were handed out to all who had entered trusses or plants in the annual show. Winners of the raffle included Marilyn Batt, Joel Ziegler, Royal McCarthy, Vivian Ziegler, and Don Wallace.

The door prize was won by Jim Gayner. General plant raffle winners included Gene Schnell, Nelda Palmer, Lillian Hagele, Carol Olivier, Bruce Palmer, Sue Hemmann, John Hemmann, Marilyn Batt, Leon Zlatkoff, Gene Schnell, Joe Ortiz, and Paul and Dolores Wright.

The Plant-of-the-Month, R. 'Pink Delight', was auctioned and won by Bill Furst. A pair of gloves was donated by Wes and Cheryl Wheeler of the Bear Wallow Gloves Company. The gloves were auctioned and won by June Walsh.

Members were invited to peruse the gloves and garden tools on display from the Bear Wallow Gloves Company. It's a local, family-owned business that makes a glove with goat skin (for the hands) and split cow hide (for the forearms). Check out bearwallowgloves.com for gloves, garden tools, and other products. Or call them at 1-800-883-2691.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Trish Gidding-Ortiz, Secretary

Note to members: The Eureka Chapter Board meets the first Wednesday of the month, all members are welcome to attend. Call Tim Walsh for information 443-0604.

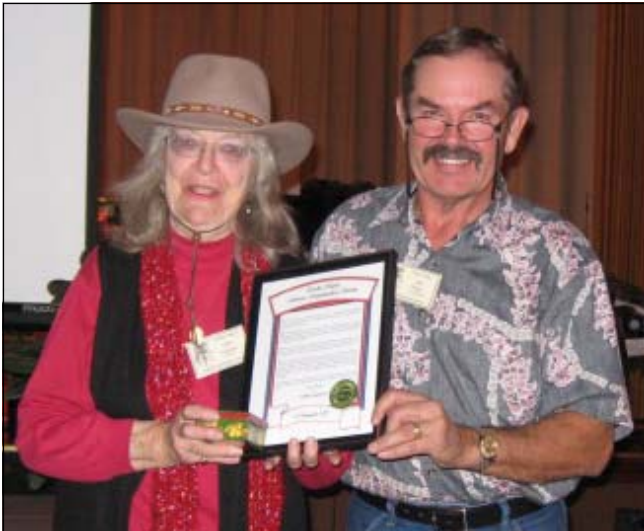


When I go into the garden with a spade, and dig a bed, I feel such an exhilaration and health that I discover that I have been defrauding myself all this time in letting others do for me what I should have done with my own hands. -Ralph Waldo Emerson, writer and philosopher (1803-1882)

Eureka Chapter Awards Bronze Medal to Ellie Gayner

At the December meeting Vice President Tim Walsh had the great pleasure to award the Eureka Chapter's highest honor, the Bronze Medal, to Ellie Gayner for her work as the Chapter's public relations director. The citation reads as follows:

Since you joined the Eureka Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society in April 2000, you have been an active participant in the Chapter's programs and activities. More importantly, you have been active in promoting the Chapter's programs and activities in local media. These efforts have paid significant dividends for the Chapter, which has continued to increase its membership as a result of your efforts.



You have worked long and hard to establish personal relationships with local newspaper, television and radio people, thus insuring that your information about Chapter activities is fairly and accurately reported.

You have also been involved many other ways in Chapter programs.

You are a regular volunteer at the annual Rhododendron Show and Sale.

You have helped with the tasks involved in membership renewal. You participate in the Eureka Chapter's telephone tree calling members before each meeting. You have often supplied refreshments for our monthly meetings.

In recognition of these outstanding efforts on behalf of the Chapter, the Eureka Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society is proud to award the Bronze Medal to Ellie Gayner.

Need seeds? There have been some changes made to the American Rhododendron Society Seed Exchange program which is now being handled by Norman Beaudry. The 2010 rhododendron/azalea/companion plant catalog and order form can now be viewed at the ARS Web Page www.rhododendron.org/seedexchange.htm. This is the quickest way to order seed. Orders will be filled after 2/1/2010.

WORD OF THE MONTH

By, Bruce Palmer

Most of the plants in our yards are "asleep" at this time of year. This condition is known as DORMANCY, the word for this month. It's from the Latin *dormire*, to sleep. Flowering plants have invaded a wider variety of climates than plants that evolved earlier in Earth's history, such as ferns and conifers. One factor that has made this possible is that the growth and flower buds become dormant late in the summer and remain so until after the cold winter. As the days lengthen, the buds begin to grow under the influence of plant growth hormones. The three factors together: temperature, day length and growth hormones, determine when and how well the new buds grow into leaves, stems and flowers. Different plants have different requirements. We can't grow peaches well near sea level here because the winters are not cold enough.

Jeannie Timmerman prompted this word by observing that a lot of her rhodies are blooming when they should still be dormant. Quite a few of ours are also, not well, but producing partial trusses. A reasonable guess as to what is causing this is that the dormant buds responded to the prolonged cold spell we had in October. That should not have happened around here until about now, January. After it warmed up again, some of the dormant buds began to grow. A majority of the buds appear to have gotten it right, though, so we will probably have plenty of trusses for the show in April.

A lot of study and experimentation has allowed the horticultural industry to produce plants for the trade almost any time of year. Sun Valley Floral Farm in Arcata is an excellent example. Azaleas sold by florists, typically *Rhododendron obtusum*, are produced in completely enclosed buildings where light, day length and temperature can be strictly regulated. Rooted cuttings are kept in refrigerated conditions, about 40 degrees, for five weeks with a specific light level for 12 hours per day. After that, buds are induced by raising the temperature to 60 degrees and often by spraying the plant with growth hormones. The whole process takes a bit more than a year to produce a plant for sale. When you buy or receive that one gallon azalea plant for Valentines Day, you might have a new appreciation for what went into its production.



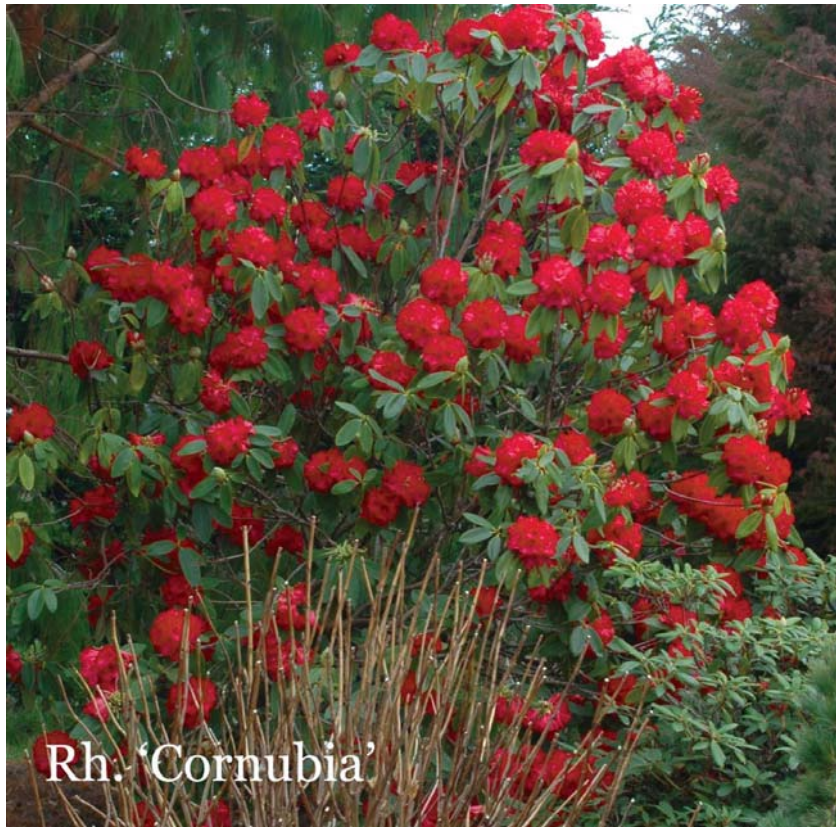
New members Carol and Martin Newitz



Jacquie McShane, Lillian H. and Marilyn Martino



Joe and Trish Ortiz and Gayle Teter



**Plant of the Month
*Rhododendron 'Cornubia'***

Here in Humboldt County in early January to mid February Rhododendron 'Cornubia' begins to decorate the neighborhoods. The rich red flowers cover the plants "head to toe", however this profuse blooming may skip a year as a rest is sometimes needed.

Hybridized by the British nursery Barclay Fox in the late 19th century, the plant received an Award of Merit in 1912 by the Royal Horticultural Society. It is a cross of a form of *Rhododendron arboreum* called 'Blood Red' and the hybrid *Rhododendron*

'Shilsonii'. *Rhododendron 'Shilsonii'* is half *Rhododendron thompsonii* and half *Rhododendron barbatum*, both red flowering species.

This plant is hardy to only 15 deg F, so cannot be grown in colder areas of the country. *Rhododendron 'Cornubia'* will grow into a medium sized tree over time, so if you would like to plant it into your garden, give it plenty of room. There are specimens around Eureka and Arcata that are almost the size of a house! My experience with *Rhododendron 'Cornubia'* is that it takes 6-8 years for it to begin blooming, so one has the patience it is well worth the wait.



Bill Furst and Bill Troiano



Willie and Royal McCarthy



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.

Future Programs

Thursday January 28, 2010, 7:00 p.m.	Mike Bones, Bonsai
Thursday February 25, 2010 7:00 p.m.	Don Selcer, Plant Hunting in Sikkim
Thursday March 25, 2010 7:00 p.m.	TBA
Thursday April 22, 2010 7:00 p.m.	Gary Todoroff, Garden Photography
April 23 through April 25, 2010	Rhododendron Show and Plant Sale
Saturday May 22	Dedication of the Moss Family Temperate Woodland Garden at Humboldt Botanical Gardens
Thursday May 27, 2010 6:30 p.m.	Pizza and Mini Show
Sunday June 13, 2010	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.

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
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	egayner@hotmail.com
Jerry Reynolds, Director	707-822-6580	jerry_reynolds@suddenlink.net
Doug Batt, Director	707-444-2702	dbattspot@sbcglobal.net



**Fa La La Pot Luck fun
Left Bruce and Nelda Palmer
Right, New members Paul
and Dolores Wright**



**Left, Charles, Carol and Sean
Ollivier**



**Right, Jim and Ellie Gayner
Left below, Don Wallace and
Steve Cole
Center, Margaret and Leon
Zlatkoff Right below, Sue
and John Hemmann**



**Left, Vivian Ziegler,
Joel Ziegler and guest
Right, Dorothy
Dilling, Susan and
Mary Benzinger**



**Left, Leana and Gene
Schnell
Right, New Members
Harlan and Marilyn
Morris**

