

AMERICAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

## Eureka Chapter

*The next meeting*  
Thursday, Sept. 25 — 7:30 p.m.  
First Baptist Church  
422 Del Norte St., Eureka

*Pre-Meeting No Host Dinner @5:15*  
Yen Ching Chinese Restaurant  
525 F Street, Eureka  
Call Nelda for reservation 443-8049



January 2005

*Roger Gossler, Magnolia Maven January 27th*

Mark your calendars for **January 27, 2005** when the program will be presented by **Roger Gossler**. Roger will discuss **Woodland Gardens** and will present photos of his travels to North American and European gardens.

Roger and his family (mom, Marj and brother Eric) own Gossler Farms Nursery in Springfield, Oregon. Gossler Farms Nursery specializes in Magnolias but propagates and sells maples, conifers, Rhododendrons and many other special garden trees and shrubs.

For those of you who not know Roger and his family's business some back ground is in order. Roger's family has been in the Springfield, Oregon area for 120 years engaged in farming. Over time the family developed an interest in ornamental plants and became avid gardeners and collectors. In the mid 1960's Gossler Farms Nursery produced its first plant catalog and in 1985 put farming behind them to concentrate on the nursery business.

Gossler Farms Nursery has a stunning display garden of mostly woody plants and choice trees which is a delight in all seasons. Roger and his family feel it is important to grow and evaluate the plants they offer in their own garden before offering the plants to their loyal customers.

Roger will be bringing a few plants for members to purchase so stock up at the money tree before the meeting. To see what plants are available and get additional inspiration go to Gossler Farms Nursery web site

<http://www.gosslerfarms.com/>

Roger's programs are always a feast for the imagination of any gardener. With his stunning photography you will want to mark your calendars and grab your friends for this "ohs and ahs" presentation.

Photo is *Magnolia sieiboldii*, Gossler Farms Nursery



## President Tom's Winter Report

Plan now for your trip to Victoria, British Columbia during the week of April 27th to May 1st. Victoria is easy to find. Just go to Ferndale and head southwest. Caution, you will need a boat, Volkswagen or kinetic sculpture to cross the Strait of Georgia. Just point your bow towards the south end of Vancouver Island. You can't miss, and if you do, you will know it by the increased wave action in Juan De Fuca Strait. In fact, it might be a good idea to take along flares and granola bars just in case. I'll bring convention brochures to our meeting on January 27<sup>th</sup>. Incidentally, that would be Ferndale, Washington, just north of Bellingham.

After a raucous discussion at our last board meeting, it was decided to postpone the first annual search for the area's largest rhododendron until next year. We hope to involve the Eureka city council and make it a city wide search that coincides with the Rhody parade. Maybe we can also have a 'best' category and let all interested parties vote for their favorite rhododendron. Sorry Mary Alice, just one vote each.

Tim Walsh has volunteered to handle the Sequoia Park mulching duties. He wants to use his tractor and hitch up a wagon, of course. Bruce will be there to try and bring some semblance of order to the operation and make sure that it comes off without a hitch. (This pun's for you, but don't add it to your 'get along';-)

Seriously though, I really appreciate the e-mail alerts from June. Speaking of which, I hope everyone got in their orders for Roger Gossler. Roger will be our guest speaker on the 27<sup>th</sup> and will hopefully still have room left after Tim gets his order in. Additionally, there will be a great discussion on how to streeeeeeeeeeeeeeetch out the blooming season for rhodys. Please plan to be there so we can extract your methods. I have the complete secret list of 'very early' to 'very late' bloomers and can make you a copy. Or you could just log onto the ARS website and print your own.

Start singing the blues, 'cause that's all the news. Tom (Martin, President)

## RHODO 101 Continuation School

President Tom will offer a tutorial on **extending the bloom** season in your garden. Selecting plants for early, middle and late season bloom can increase your Rhododendron year. Tom will share his insight.

## The Rhododendron Year

**January...**Use small amounts of dolomite to increase calcium and magnesium. This will help your Rhododendrons assimilate other important nutrients (see word of the month). Trap moles and mountain beavers (Tim can give you some pointers on Have-A-Hart trapping of mountain beavers).

## WORD OF THE MONTH

This month's word is NUTRIENT. The word is from the Latin *nutrire*, to feed. Nutrients are the atoms and molecules plants use to construct cell parts, grow and flower. February is one of the times to fertilize your rhodies. By this time of year the rains have leached a lot of the nutrients out of the soil. What do those symbols on the bag (N,P,K) mean? Why are they so important? N stands for nitrogen. All three of the major molecules in cells (carbohydrates, fats and proteins) contain carbon, hydrogen and oxygen. All proteins contain nitrogen in addition to C, H and O. That's important because every part of a cell is a protein or is constructed by enzymes which are proteins. Plants can get all the C, H and O they need from the air, water and soil. The air is 80% nitrogen but plants can't use N from the air as it is; it must be attached (fixed) to an oxygen or sometimes a hydrogen atom. Certain kinds of bacteria do most of the fixing in the soil and higher plants take it up from there. Plants need so much of it, though, that if you want good looking garden plants you need to give them extra usable nitrogen. P stands for phosphorus. Phosphorus is used by cells to store the energy produced in photosynthesis and respiration. It takes extra energy to make flowers, fruits and seeds, so if you want good flowers in your garden, you need to give your plants extra phosphorus. Plants can get enough phosphorus from the soil if it is loose and well-drained, but clay particles trap it and don't let it move or get taken up by plants. K stands for potassium. Potassium is one of those elements that acts to help enzymes do their work. It is used in large quantities by plants but is not generally present in the soil in sufficient amounts for healthy looking garden plants. There's an extensive list of other nutrients a plant requires. Magnesium, for example, is what gives the chlorophyll molecule its green color. These other nutrients, often called micronutrients, are not usually in short supply in the soil so most of the time you won't have to worry about them. If you fertilize regularly and your plants still don't look good, then ask someone about micronutrients. **By: Bruce Palmer**

## TIM WALSH EARNS BRONZE MEDAL

Jerry Reynolds made the bronze medal award presentation to Tim Walsh on behalf of the Eureka Chapter. The Bronze medal citation reads:

Since you joined the Eureka Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society, you have been active in virtually everything we have done.

You were a leader for two successful Western Regional Conferences and a dedicated and tireless worker in preparing display gardens for KEET-TV landscape shows and the Humboldt County Fair.

Your work on the annual Truss Show and Plant Sale helped make that event a success year after year.

You've shared your travels with us through several programs, been our auctioneer, and served as vice president and president. You've kept track of our bank accounts as treasurer and continue to serve the American Rhododendron Society as its treasurer.

For your efforts over a decade and a half on our behalf, the Eureka chapter of the American Rhododendron Society is proud to award the

Bronze Medal  
to  
Tim Walsh  
this 9<sup>th</sup> day of December 2004.



## NELDA PALMER RECEIVES BRONZE MEDAL

Jerry Reynolds made the bronze medal award presentation to Nelda Palmer on behalf of the Eureka Chapter. The Bronze medal citation reads:

In the ten years since you joined the Eureka Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society, you have given tirelessly of your time and talent to bring the world of rhododendrons to others.

During your two terms as president, you led the chapter to develop a display at the Humboldt County Fair. You continue to lead the chapter's effort to clean up and maintain the public rhododendron garden at Eureka's Sequoia Park.

You have worked every year to make the annual Truss Show and Plant Sale a success, serving in a variety of positions including show chair for the past two years.

You have worked on virtually every project the Chapter has undertaken during the past ten years, and been a regular volunteer for the many work parties for the American Rhododendron Society.

For your dedicated and tireless work on behalf of the chapter, the Eureka Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society is proud to present the

Bronze Medal  
to  
Nelda Palmer



## BRONZE MEDAL AWARDED TO BRUCE PALMER

Jerry Reynolds made the bronze medal award presentation to Bruce Palmer on behalf of the Eureka Chapter. The Bronze medal citation reads:

It has been ten years since you joined the Eureka Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society — a busy 10 years for both you and the Chapter.

You have served us as a member of the board for most of that time, holding office as vice president or secretary or as a committee chair. You have been a dependable and dedicated volunteer for every project the Chapter has under taken in the past decade — the annual Truss Show and Plant Sale, the display gardens for the KEET-TV landscape show and the Humboldt County Fair, potting parties and ARS work parties. Your energy and dedication has been an inspiration for the entire chapter.

For your dedicated and tireless work on behalf of the chapter, the Eureka Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society is proud to present the

Bronze Medal  
to  
Bruce Palmer  
this 9<sup>th</sup> day of December 2004.



## Eureka Chapter, American Rhododendron Society Meeting Minutes December 9, 2004

The annual chapter Christmas dinner was served at 6:45 p.m.

Twenty-two members and two guests were present. As usual, the food was abundant and varied. Everyone present enjoyed the fun and fellowship.

The meeting was called to order by President Tom Martin at 7:35 PM. No trusses were shared. Don Wallace described the raffle plants. Treasurer Tim Walsh reported a balance of \$10,170.58. No correspondence was reported. Membership Chair June Walsh reported a total of seventy memberships plus six associates. She passed out a member profile form for members to fill out for publication in future issues of the newsletter and announced that ARS window stickers are available.

Tom led a discussion of the possibility of starting a search for the largest and oldest rhododendrons and azaleas in the area next year. The search will probably be postponed a year. Nelda Palmer announced that the public flower show will be eliminated in 2005 because so many members will be going to Victoria to the convention. A less formal flower show for members at a meeting, a public plant sale the weekend before the rhodie parade and a public garden tour in May are all possibilities. More discussion and proposals will be forthcoming at the January meeting.

June Walsh announced that some of Davidian's books on Rhododendron Species are available from Catherine Weeks. Tim Walsh announced that HBGF is looking for volunteers to plant native plants. Interested members should contact him. Prior to the break Jerry Reynolds presented ARS Bronze Medals to Nelda Palmer, Tim Walsh and Bruce Palmer. All three recipients were surprised and honored.

Following the break, slides were presented by Bruce Palmer, Tim Walsh and Don Wallace. The door prize was awarded to Ellie Gaynor. The raffle was held and a signed Ed Riley book and a beautiful woven tapestry Rhododendron throw donated by June Walsh were auctioned. President Tom thanked everyone for attending and adjourned the meeting at 8:36 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Bruce Palmer, Secretary



Debby and Bob Brantley along with Aileen Martin.  
Right, Charlie Pace with Jim and Ellie Gaynor. All enjoyed the Christmas Pot Luck.

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 available from June Walsh 2050 Irving Drive, Eureka, CA 95503-7022. 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

- February 24** Dr. Paul Anderson and Rhodo 101...Jill Mefford , “Pests and Diseases”
- March 24** Sue Tosten “Winning Trusses” and Rhodo 101...Tim Walsh, “Garden Design and Companion Plants”
- April 21** Mini Member Flower Show and Rhodo 101...Don Wallace, “Flower Color and Fragrance”
- May 21** Member Only Garden Tour
- May 22** Public Garden Tour
- June 23** Potluck and Member Show-and-Tell and Rhodo 101...Mel Williams, Azaleas, Evergreen and Deciduous. Bring Azalea cuttings to trade.



Left, Lynn Sarty and Donna Pace review the Holiday potluck table for tasty treats. Right, Molly Eggel and Abby Wasetis enjoy a chat during the break.