

AMERICAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

Eureka Chapter

The next meeting
Thursday, Feb. 23 — 7:30 p.m.
Christ Episcopal Church
15th and H Streets
Eureka, California

Pre-Meeting No Host Dinner
5:15 p.m.
Thai Cuisine, 615 F St. Eureka
Call Nelda to make your reservation
707-443-8049



FEBRUARY 2006

RHODODENDRONS

CREEPERS to GIANTS and IN-BETWEEN

Mike Bones, the American Rhododendron Society District 4 Director and Membership Chair, will be the featured speaker for the Eureka Chapter's Thursday 7:30 PM February 23rd meeting at the Christ Episcopal Church at 15th and H Streets in Eureka. Mike is Chief-in-Charge-of-Rhodo-Excitement in Florence Oregon where he has consistently helped the Siuslaw (sigh-use-slau) exceed ARS membership growth goals.

In addition to his interest in rhododendrons Mike and his wife Kathy are also very involved in the community in Florence, including; "First Citizens of the Year" for Florence (awarded by the Soroptimists), the Cancer Society "Relay for Life", Boy Scouts of America district award of Merit and the Silver Beaver, Siuslaw Chapter Bronze Medalist and not-to-be-forgotten BILLBOARD BOY for the local casino!

Mike's program is to focus on the diversity in the Rhododendron genus...from

Rhododendron forrestii ssp forrestii
Photo from ARS web by Hank Helm



Rhododendron sinogrande
Photo from ARS web by Bob George



the BIG Rhodos like R. sinogrande with leaves over 3 feet to the little Rhodos like R. forrestii which is a creeper, both pictured to the left. You will find Mike's presentation FUN!

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.

PROVEN PERFORMERS

Back in 2000 the American Rhododendron Society launched something called the **Good Do-ers Project**. It was designed to introduce rhododendrons that do exceptionally well in the gardens of American Rhododendron Society members to non-member gardeners.

In the first step local ARS chapters developed lists of plants that do well in the gardens of their members — **Proven Performers**. In step two the ARS Plant Awards Committee selected rhododendrons in seven geographical regions of North America for **Rhododendron of the Year Awards**.

For the past four years the ARS has been sending out some 450 press releases to newspapers and magazines across the continent to announce these special rhododendrons and the Plant Committee is implementing step three of the project. In this step wholesale and retail nurseries are being notified of the winners (three years in advance of the public announcement) so those special rhodies can be available in the trade when the awards are announced.

Eureka Chapter's Proven Performers list hasn't really been updated since it was first created, and as the project has evolved, some rules have been developed or changed.

We'd like to get in the habit of updating the lists regularly in the spring, since nominations for the **Rhododendron of the Year Awards** are always taken from the **Proven Performers** lists. And we need to include azaleas on our lists, too, since the awards are given in five classes — elepidote, lepidote, evergreen azalea, deciduous azalea and vireya.

During the **February meeting**, we'd like to update the **Eureka Chapter Proven Performers** list, so take a look around your garden and see what plants do really well for you. First off, the plant must be registered. Beyond that, we are looking for plants that grow well in our area, have nice foliage and shape, and bloom well and reliably. Make a list and bring it to the meeting with you. (I'll have my Greer book, so if you don't know if it's a lepidote or an elepidote, we can look it up!).

The current Eureka Proven Performers list includes:

Elepidotes: *R. callophytum*, *R. campyulogynum*, *R. williamsianum*, 'Alice,' 'Anah Krushke,' 'Bibiani,' 'Bronze Wing,' 'Bruce Brechtbill,' 'Christmas Cheer,' 'Cornubia,' 'Cupcake,' 'Fastuosum Flore Pleno,' 'Grace Seabrook,' 'Halfdan Lem,' 'Hallelujah,' 'Horizon Monarch,' 'The Honorable Jean Marie de Montague,' 'Lem's Cameo,' 'Loderi King George,' 'Loderi Venus,' 'Madame Cochet,' 'Manda Sue,' 'May Day,' 'Mrs. Charles E. Pearson,' 'Mrs. E.C. Stirling,' 'Mrs. George W. Leak,' 'Nancy Evans,' 'Naselle,' 'Noyo Brave,' 'Noyo Chief,' 'Noyo Dream,' Olympic Lady Group, and 'Peter Faulk.'

Lepidotes: *R. maddenii*, 'Blaney's Blue,' 'Bodega Crystal Pink,' 'Dora Amateis,' 'Fragrantissimum,' 'Ginny Gee,' 'Goldilocks,' and 'Mi Amor.'

There are no azaleas or vireyas on our list. *By: Jerry Reynolds*

The Rhododendron Year—February...Use small amounts of "fritted trace elements". This will help create darker foliage and help future fertilizer assimilation. This is an excellent time to plant your previous year's crosses and to make grafts.

SHOW, SALE and TOUR NEWS!!!

The **Eureka Chapter's 34th Annual Rhododendron Show and Plant Sale** will be held on **Saturday, April 29, 2006** and will be followed on **Sunday, April 30th** by the **Second Annual Rhododendron Garden Tour**.

The show is moving to Miles Hall at **St. Bernard's Elementary School**, 115 Henderson Street, Eureka. The facility is large enough to accommodate both the show and sale areas if we have bad weather. If the weather is good, the sale will be held outside.

Miles Hall fronts right on **Henderson Street** and is right on the **Rhododendron Parade** route, so that should create some big crowds for us.

We will exchange judges with **Noyo Chapter** in **Fort Bragg**.

Show books will be ready for distribution at the March chapter meeting and a list of gardens to be visited on Sunday's Garden Tour will be available at that time. **Show Chairs Nelda Palmer** and **Jerry Reynolds** will have sign-up sheets at the March meeting for volunteers and draftees to pick assignments and tour chair **Don Wallace** will be looking for docents to work the gardens on Sunday.

If you still have a trophy in your possession, please return it to Nelda no later than the March meeting. *By: Jerry Reynolds*

WORD OF THE MONTH

June Walsh has been requesting this for months, so here goes. The word of the month is "**campylogynum**" as in Rhododendron campylogynum. The word derives from the Greek campylo- for bent and gyn- for female. It does not refer, however, to an elderly woman with osteoporosis. The gyn part is related to the botanical term gynoecium, meaning the tissues surrounding the eggs of a plant, not just a flowering plant. Androecium refers to the equivalent male parts. Linnaeus and other botanists of the time seem to have been obsessed with sex; they classified all plants on the basis of their reproductive parts to the exclusion of nearly all other distinguishing features. In any case, campylogynum refers to the fact that the flower, where it leaves the stalk and forms the ovary and surrounding tissues, is bent nearly at a right angle. R. campylogynum is a rhodie with really beautiful small, almost translucent bell-shaped flowers, only three or so in a loose truss. The flowers range in color from a creamy white through various shades of red to almost maroon. If you don't have one in your garden, it doesn't take much room and would be a great addition. *by Bruce Palmer*

Meeting Minutes January 26, 2006... The meeting was called to order by President **Paula Trinoskey** at 7:42 p.m. Twenty-six members were present. Trusses were shared by **Bruce Palmer** and **Tim Walsh**.

Don Wallace announced that there would be no raffle; instead a variety of choice rhodies from Thompson's Nursery were for sale. Treasurer **Tim Walsh** reported a balance of \$11,927.20. Tim announced that the International Convention for 2007 may be held at the Embassy Suites Hotel in South San Francisco April 12-15, 2007

Tim Walsh and Don Wallace announced that the **Spring show** will be held at **St. Bernard's School on Henderson Street** and that the tour to be held the same weekend is taking shape. The search for the largest and oldest Rhododendron in the area will be held at the same time. There will be prizes for the owner and the finder. June Walsh announced that information for the proven performers list should be submitted to Jerry Reynolds. She also asked members to take catalogs from a large number she brought to the meeting. *Continued on page 4*



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.

Minutes continued...Under new business, **Paula announced that the chapter will be placing an order for plants from the Rhododendron Species Foundation. Anyone wishing to order plants should contact Paula, who will coordinate and place the order. Nelda Palmer announced that Mike and Kathy Bones** have been named "First Citizens" of Florence, Oregon (see cover story).

Before the break, **Don Wallace** gave a mini-program on early blooming rhodies with numerous examples displayed. **Patrick Osborn**, guest speaker for the evening, describe the plants to be for sale during the break.

Don Wallace introduced **Patrick Osborn** from **Thompson's Nursery** in Waldport. Patrick gave a very good program on grafting. Members were invited to try his method following the demonstration. Tim Walsh won the door prize. Paula thanked everyone for attending and adjourned the meeting at 9:30 p.m. *Respectfully submitted by Bruce Palmer, Secretary*

MEMBER PROFILE—Ron and Betty Bottemiller

New members, Ron and Betty Bottemiller, have been around Humboldt County for a long time. Before retirement Ron and Betty had a pharmacy in the McKinleyville shopping center, where Ron dispensed the drugs and Betty ran the store. Since retirement they have found more time to garden at their home near the Baywood Golf and Country Club.

As with many of us they find deer to be a major problem but they have learned that deer don't particularly seek out rhododendrons as they do with, say roses. They haven't taken up hybridizing yet, in fact they don't have a favorite rhododendron yet, but are eager to learn as much as they can.



They enjoy their friends' gardens and working in their own garden creation.

Post this on your refrigerator!
Future Programs for the Eureka Chapter
American Rhododendron Society

Unless otherwise noted meetings are held at 7:30 p.m. at the
Christ Episcopal Church, 15th and H Streets, Eureka

- February 23** **Mike Bones**, the most enthusiastic Rhodo-geek in the world, **Rhodos Big and Small**
- March 23** **Joann Olson**, about the **fungus** among us
- April 27** Get ready for the Flower Show, **Fran Jackson**,
Vireyas from the **Hawaii Chapter**
- April 29** **Flower Show and Plant Sale**, St. Bernard's Catholic
Elementary School, Eureka
- April 30** **Rhododendron Spring Garden Tour**
- May 12-15** International ARS Conference, Rockville, Maryland
- May 25** Program to be announced
- June 22** **Potluck** at **Tom and Aileen Martin's**, **Tom's Tufa**
Troughs (hands-on) and **Lucille Whitman** all about
trees

Post this on your refrigerator!
Future Programs for the Eureka Chapter
American Rhododendron Society

Unless otherwise noted meetings are held at 7:30 p.m. at the
Christ Episcopal Church, 15th and H Streets, Eureka

- February 23** **Mike Bones**, the most enthusiastic Rhodo-geek in the world, **Rhodos Big and Small**
- March 23** **Joann Olson**, about the **fungus** among us
- April 27** Get ready for the Flower Show, **Fran Jackson**,
Vireyas from the **Hawaii Chapter**
- April 29** **Flower Show and Plant Sale**, St. Bernard's Catholic
Elementary School, Eureka
- April 30** **Rhododendron Spring Garden Tour**
- May 12-15** International ARS Conference, Rockville, Maryland
- May 25** Program to be announced
- June 22** **Potluck** at **Tom and Aileen Martin's**, **Tom's Tufa**
Troughs (hands-on) and **Lucille Whitman** all about
trees