

AMERICAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

## Eureka Chapter

### *The next meeting*

*Thursday, Sept. 27 — 6:30 p.m.*

*Christ Episcopal Church  
15th and H Streets  
Eureka, California*

### *Pre-Meeting Dinner*

#### *It is Pizza Night*

*The Chapter will provide pizza, salad  
and drinks at the church  
6:30 p.m.*



*Spring 2006 in Carol Ollivier's garden. Photo by Carol Ollivier*

September 2007

**Membership Renewal Time...**see details inside

# Living with Acid Soils

Sam Polly will be the Eureka Chapter's featured speaker at its **Thursday September 27th** meeting. The meeting will take place at **6:30 pm at the Christ Episcopal Church at 15th and H Streets in Eureka.** The Eureka Chapter will provide a **pizza and salad dinner** before Sam's presentation.

Sam will talk about successful plant growth in the acid soils of Humboldt County. He will talk about why our soils are acidic, characteristics of acid soils, how to improve local soils and what various amendments do to both pH and physical characteristics.

After operating an apple nursery for several years as an award winning high school FFA project, Sam Polly went on to get a Bachelor's Degree in soil science with an emphasis in fruit science from Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo. After graduating Sam ran the plant health care department for the San Jose branch of Environmental Care, Inc., the nation's largest landscaping company. After two years of city life, Sam moved back to his hometown of McKinleyville, where he worked as an equipment operator for IFA Nurseries in Dows Prairie.

Three years later, Sam began teaching at College of the Redwoods. During this time he earned his Master's Degree in agricultural education from Cal Poly.

Leaving the volatile teaching community Sam noticed a dire need for proper tree pruning in the area. After four years of teaching Sam now owns Fruitful Labors a specialized fruit tree care business. As a fruit tree specialist he amends soils and prunes both fruit trees and ornamentals to obtain optimal growth for his clients.

Sam's other activities include growing experimental fruit varieties and lecturing around the county on various plant and soil-related topics. Sam's greatest followers include his two kids, Jed and Akane, who enjoy planting, pruning and eating the fruit from their trees.

Bring your soil questions and concerns for Sam's expert knowledge.

*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 – R. auriculatum**

*By Don Wallace*

Here is a rhododendron that blooms very late, opening in early to mid August in our area. The flowers are of very fine quality, pure white in color and very fragrant. R. auriculatum will grow into a small tree 15 ft. tall and 20 ft. wide and will perfume the air around it, causing smiles from passersby. Native to Hupeh province of China in woodland areas 5,000 to 7,000 feet in elevation, the spe-

cies was found by Henry and introduced by E.H. Wilson in 1900. Distinguishing characteristics include long lanceolate leaves with two distinct basal lobes at either side of the midrib. Also, the buds are very pointed with sharply-tipped scales enclosing them. The flowers open in loose clusters of florets that are 4" across, with seven to eight lobes. The fragrance has been called "startling", as it is very sweet and long lasting. If only a perfume could be produced for the fragrance industry from this wonderful rhododendron.

## **Jerry Reynolds presents June Walsh with the Bronze Medal on behalf of the Eureka Chapter. The certificate reads:**

*When you first began attending Eureka Chapter meetings, you called yourself a "dragee." Somewhere in the intervening years, that dragee became one of the Chapter's most active and supportive members.*

*You have been involved in virtually everything the Chapter does: plant sales, truss shows, potluck meetings and garden tours. You have helped to provide refreshments at our meetings and been a gracious hostess for numerous board meetings and other functions.*



*Jerry making the presentation to a very surprised and honored June Walsh*

*You have served on our board for many years as membership chair and newsletter editor. And shortly you will add treasurer to those responsibilities. You have also been active on behalf of other chapters of the Society as a truss show judge. And you have taken on additional duties as secretary of the American Rhododendron Society. You brought your considerable organizational skills to bear as the Chapter planned and hosted two Western Regional Conferences. You were co-chair of the 2007 Annual Convention of the American Rhododendron Society, doing most of the hard work of organizing the South San Francisco convention and winning well deserved praise for your efforts.*

*The Eureka Chapter is proud to recognize your years of selfless service to Chapter and to the American Rhododendron Society by presenting the **Bronze Medal** to **June Walsh** this 17<sup>th</sup> day of June 2007.*



## WORD OF THE MONTH

*By, Bruce Palmer*

The annual "redwood rain", when the redwoods drop the ends of their new branches, prompted me to want to write about the word deciduous. I discovered that was last September's word so here's a related one: **Photoperiodism**.

The word is derived from the Greek, as is often the case. Photo- comes from photos or phos, the Greek word for light, -period- stems from periodos, meaning a going around, and -ism is from ismos, a combining term giving nouns an action context. Many, if not most plants and animals show physiological responses to light, especially to changes in day length. In plants photoperiodism influences a lot of things including seed germination, budding, flowering and the seasonal loss of leaves. Horticulturists have known for a long time that light and the length of the day affect flowering and fruiting. Commercial flower growers take advantage of this phenomenon to produce plants and cut flowers for market at very specific times with procedures such as controlling day length by growing their plants in enclosed buildings. Tricks such as turning lights on for just a few minutes in the middle of the night can determine when and how a plant will flower. This activity in plants is controlled mainly by a substance called phytochrome (= plant color). Phytochrome, a blue pigment, absorbs red light to control the timing of flowering. It does it differently in different plants, but we don't need to cover that here. Phytochrome appears to be the main substance that elongates stems growing in shade, so, as is common in many organisms, the same substance is responsible for more than one action. What's happening with the "redwood rain" and will soon happen with the deciduous broad leaved plants is that as the day length shortens, the leaves become less efficient and the plant begins to re-absorb the molecules used in photosynthesis. Auxin, responsible for controlling such other things as bending of plant stems toward light, causes the formation of a hard wall of material, the abscission (Latin: abscissus, to cut off) layer that prevents any further transfer of substances to and from the leaves. Eventually the dead leaves drop off, forming a great layer of mulch on the ground for winter protection and spring startup. So, as much as we might be bothered by the dropping redwood material this time of year, it has beneficial effects for all the plants in the forest.



2006 Fall leaves at the Vanderbilt Estate, Hyde Park, New York



## The Eureka Chapter Dedicates a Trophy in Honor of Jerry Reynolds

*By, Nelda Palmer*

Something over eighteen years ago, Jerry Reynolds became the Flower Show Chairman for the Eureka Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society. His generous and helping organizational ability set the stage for many years of successful shows. Despite several major changes in venue, the shows remain well attended and full of interest. The show sales started out at the Eureka Mall between Harris and Henderson Street. When renovation of the mall was planned the show moved to the Eureka Inn where the lobby was filled with tables full of trusses, ribbons and visitors. It grew and prospered with Jim Eggle as Chairman for two years, until 2002. At that time an experimental location at the Bayshore Mall Food court took place. The problems with a water source, security and crowd control caused a move to the Carson Park basketball court on Carson Street between H and I streets. For the three years at the park there were Bruce Palmer, Gayle Teter, Molly Eggle and Nelda Palmer as Co-Chairs with Jerry who was trying to “retire”. We were presented with the use of a large tent from The Party Place and held the first “outside show”. The Rhododendron Festival Parade passed right in front of the tent. The crowds were wonderful.

After an exciting wind and rain storm it was decided to look for a more permanent venue. Inquiries went out and St. Bernard’s Elementary School multipurpose room, Mile’s Hall, became ours after negotiations by Jerry with the school’s administration. In all our moves to various sites, Jerry stressed the importance of being on the route of the Rhododendron Festival parade. With the exception of the Bayshore Mall we met that requirement.

Jerry spent much time on planning, organizing, writing and rewriting the Flower Show Handbook, rules for the show, training the clerks, printing the handbook, arranging for the truss classification labels and getting judges for the show. His patience and good humor have endeared him to the chapter and those who have worked with him.

During his tenure as Show Chair he also held the offices of Chapter Secretary and Newsletter Editor. He also worked full time at Humboldt State University. The last few years he has been the publicity Chairman for the American Rhododendron Society. Brochures for the care and feeding of rhododendrons, membership applications and other publications were handled by Jerry.

In recognition of all he has done (and much may have been inadvertently left out) the Chapter is pleased to honor his many contributions by establishing a perpetual trophy in his name. A large silver tray was donated by the Ferndale Jewelers of Fortuna and was engraved with Jerry’s name. It was most appropriate that the first-time winner of this trophy was Jerry himself. The Eureka Chapter honors and thanks Jerry for all that he has done.



*Nelda presenting Jerry with the Trophy at the June potluck.*

## September is Membership Renewal Time

Bring your membership renewal to the September 27th meeting and get a special raffle ticket for **“renewing members only”** drawing. Members who renew by mail **before** the October 26th meeting or bring their renewal to the October 25th meeting will be eligible for a **“renewing members only” drawing...must be present to win!** Your envelope is enclosed.

***Your renewal must be received by November 1, 2007.***

### Eureka Chapter Program Calendar for 2007-2008

Date	Speaker	Rhodo 101
September 27, 2007	Sam Polly, <i>Soils for Acid Loving Plants</i>	Taxonomy, Tim Walsh
October 25, 2007	Larry Stanley, Austria, Czechoslovakia, and Holland	Cuttings and Grafting
December 6, 2007	Annual Christmas Potluck Member's Slideshow	ARS Conventions, Tim
January 24, 2008	Mike Stewart , China	Lepidotes - Elepidotes Bruce and Jim
February 28, 2008	Frank Fujioka "Great Hybrids"	Feeding and Fertilizers Don
March 27, 2008	Wilbur Bluhm, Siskiyou and Kalmiopsis area of SW Oregon and NW California	Pruning Rhodies, Jill
April 24, 2008	open	Show Trusses, Nelda
May 22, 2008	Mini- Show and Pizza night	Deer Abatement, Tim
June 15, 2008	Annual Summer Potluck	Tour of Member's Gardens



Eureka Chapter/American Rhododendron Society  
2050 Irving Drive  
Eureka, CA 95503-7022

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 Officers and Board September 2007 to June 2008

**Tim Walsh, President**  
**Paula Trinoskey, Past President**  
**Betty Bottemiller, Vice President**  
**Bill Furst, Secretary**  
**June Walsh, Treasurer, Membership, Newsletter**  
**Don Wallace, Programs**  
**Bruce and Nelda Palmer, Show Co-Chairs**  
**Ellie Gaynor, Publicity**  
**Jerry Reynolds, Director**

## Mini Show Winners to receive BIG BUCKS

The winner of the May In-House Mini Show will receive their winnings at the September meeting. And the winners are:

**Verne Trinoskey, \$50** (Class 2; Elepidote Rhododendron Species, any color and Class 3; red Hybrid Rhododendron)  
**Paula Trinoskey, \$25** (Class 7; yellow, orange or apricot Hybrid Rhododendron )  
**Carol Ollivier, \$25** (Class 4; pink Hybrid Rhododendron)  
**Charles Ollivier, \$25** (Class 9; any Rhododendron Truss entered for Fragrance)  
**Tom Martin, \$25** (Class 5; white Hybrid Rhododendron )  
**Don Wallace, \$25** (Class 6; purple, lavender or blue Hybrid Rhododendron)  
**Jerry Reynolds, \$150** (Class 1; Lepidote Rhododendron Species, regardless of color, Class 8; bi-color Hybrid Rhododendron, Best of Show; chosen from the best of the 9 Classes)







