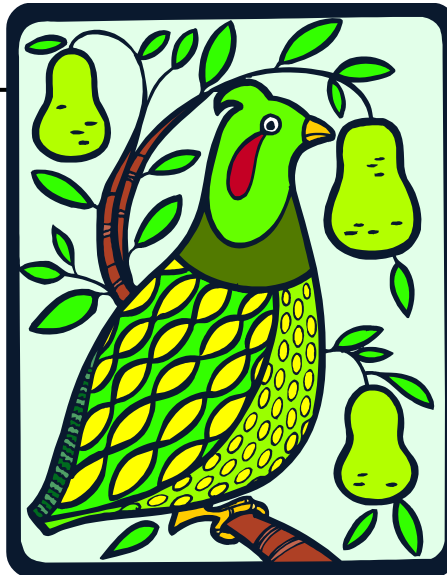
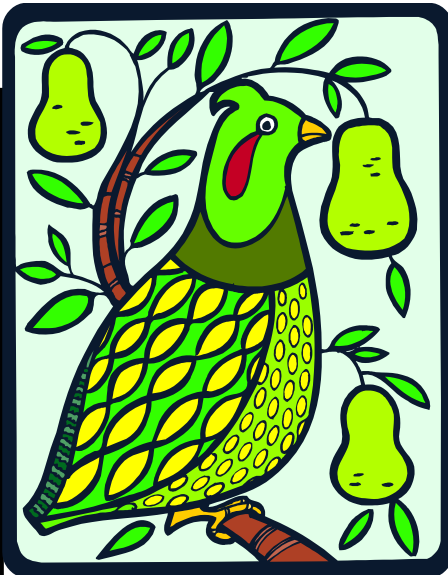


AMERICAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

Eureka Chapter

The next meeting
Thursday, December 11 — 6:00 p.m.
Christ Episcopal Church
15th and H Streets
Eureka, California



Holiday Potluck

Thursday December 11th at 6:00 PM

Christ Church, 15th and H Streets, Eureka

Eureka Chapter member Catherine Fanucchi, owner of Roy's Club, will provide the main dish this year. Members and guests should bring their favorite potluck salad, veg, side dish or dessert. Coffee, tea and juice will be provided; BYOW (wine) if you wish. Plates, napkins, cups and utensils will be provided.

Members are encouraged to bring 10 slides of their favorite gardens, travels and Rhodies (or other plants) to share. A slide projector, a computer and digital projector will be set up and ready for your slides, media stick or CD (a limit of 10 photos each to avoid the ZZZs, please!).

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: Rhododendron 'Grayland'

By, Don Wallace



Photo by, Don Wallace

“Grayland” is a new white rhododendron hybrid from Frank Fujioka that is, as yet, unregistered. The parentage is (Yaku Sunrise x Hansel) x Lem's Cameo and is a sister seedling of Rh. ‘Starbright Champagne’. Frank thinks that the flowers are better on ‘Grayland’, but the foliage on ‘Starbright Champagne’ is superior. We think they are both great! This new hybrid grows to 6 ft. in 10 years, and flowers very heavily every April-May. The flowers have unusual, deeply cut white petals

that don’t even look like rhododendron flowers, with red-orange in the throat. The foliage is a nice medium green and stays on the plant for 2 years, which is the average. If you are going to have a “white” rhododendron in your garden, it should really be “Grayland”. Maybe we should have another name with “White” or “Starbright” in it. Any ideas? If anyone comes up with a snappy name for this rhododendron, let me know...we will rename it. Watch for “Grayland” on the December raffle table.

Proposed Amendments to ARS Eureka Chapter By-laws

Members will vote for/against the amendments at the January 22, 2009 meeting.

Amendment 1: Article V: Section A:1: Officers is revised as follows:

The elected officers of the Eureka chapter shall be: President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Past President and four directors at large.

Amendment 2: Article V: Section B: 1: Board of Directors is revised to include the following wording. *The board shall assign the duties of Show Chair, Membership Chair, Program Chair, Newsletter Chair and Publicity Chair as defined in sections 7, 8, 9 & 10 below among its members as appropriate. A board member may hold more than one chairmanship but shall have one vote.*

WORD OF THE MONTH

By, Bruce Palmer

This month's word is **CULTIVAR**. The word comes to you courtesy of June Walsh and Don Wallace, who suggested it after it came to June over the Internet as a word of the day. Cultivar is a hybrid word constructed from cultivate (from Latin *cultus*, to care for or cultivate) and variety (from Latin *varietas*, absence of monotony). What it means is a plant type that has been propagated to show specific characteristics reliably over time. Cultivars can originate from the discovery of unusual characteristics on a plant (called sports, from the Middle English *disporte*, to diverge) or from crossbreeding. Crossbreeding, or hybridizing, is the most common method for originating cultivars. Hybridizing two plants results in a large variety of genetic recombinations, sometimes called a grex for short. More commonly, the results are called sister seedlings. When the hybridizer has decided which sister seedling to propagate there are a number of options. Usually the hybridizer will want a consistent set of characteristics to be repeated over a long period of time. To get them, seeds will not do very well, though some seeds, particularly for vegetable gardening, are called cultivars. For plants like our rhodies, we want to be sure that each plant has the exact characteristics the hybridizer chose. To get them, they can be propagated several ways. The easiest for the amateur is to grow cuttings. By taking shoots of a desired plant and raising them in a soil mixture until they are safely rooted, it is possible to get a fairly large number of plants that are alike. A more difficult method that can produce huge numbers of identical offspring is meristem culture. In meristem culture, unspecialized cells from buds are shaken apart and grown separately to produce entire identical plants. This is definitely not a method for the amateur but is used by many nurserymen to get hundreds of one cultivar at the same time. Another way to get a desired cultivar is by grafting. That method is seldom used anymore, but was used consistently by Cottage Gardens in Eureka for a long period of time. The method gets good, healthy plants that bloom well, but there is a major drawback. *Rhododendron ponticum* from Central Europe was used as the stock plant for grafting. Nothing can kill it but its lax, pale purple trusses are not very showy. Eventually the stock plant has a tendency to produce shoots from below the graft, slowly out-competing the grafted plant. We have all seen large old rhodies around the area that have some purple trusses and some pink ones. What happened is that its root stock plant overwhelmed one of Cottage Gardens' grafted rhodies. The same problem occurs with our roses and a number of other grafted plants. There are some other ways to get a cultivar, such as air layering or ground layering, but generally the best way for most of us to get a good one is to buy it from a nursery. Get out there and enjoy your favorite *Rhododendron* cultivars; right at the moment you don't have to do much to them.



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

December 11, 2008	Holiday Potluck and Member show-and-tell
January 22, 2009	Rich Simpson, <i>"Japanese Maples through the Seasons"</i>
February 26, 2009	Paula Trinoskey, <i>"Asian Garden Design"</i>
March 26, 2009	Elaine Sedlack, University of California Berkeley Botanical Garden, <i>"Scottish Gardens"</i>
April 23, 2009	Bob and Judy Mathey, Noyo Chapter, <i>"Gardens of Harmony Woods"</i>
April 24, 25, 26	Rhododendron Festival Flower Show and Plant Sale
April 30 to May 3, 2009	ARS International Convention, Everett, Washington
May 28, 2009	Member Mini-Show and Pizza Party
June 7, 2009	Pot Luck and Member Garden Tour



Eureka Chapter Officers and Board Members September 2007 to June 2008

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Betty Bottemiller, Vice President	707-822-4935	
Bill Furst, Secretary	707-443-2679	
June Walsh, Treasurer, Membership, Newsletter	707-443-0604	RhodyHostel@suddenlink.net
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