

AMERICAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

## Eureka Chapter

### *The next meeting*

Father's Day Sunday June 15th

Potluck and Tour

Meet at Singing Tree Gardens and Nursery at 10:30 for car pooling.  
Friends and family welcome. Bring a prospective member.



June 2008

Tour and Potluck Sunday June 15th

The Eureka Chapter will meet Sunday June 15th for its traditional end-of-season potluck and garden tour. This year we will be visiting the world famous Stage Coach Hill azalea swarm. Many azalea maniacs have come from far and wide to visit, collect seed, name and number, map, photograph and write articles about this particularly large and varied swarm of *R. occidentale* (the Western Azalea). Read more on page 3. From Stage Coach Hill we will visit the ocean view garden of Eureka Chapter member Pat Wells. Pat's spectacular garden has been featured on several Humboldt Botanical Gardens tours.

We will meet at Singing Tree Gardens and Nursery to car pool. Bring chairs and blankets to sit in the garden at Singing Tree for our post-tour potluck. Bring your favorite potluck dish to share. We have no cooking or refrigerator facilities so be sure to bring things that can stay in your ice chest for several hours. We will put all the ice chests and food in the Singing Tree retail office while we are on tour then use the retail counter to set out our feast. In addition to food bring drinks of your choice. The Chapter will provide plates, utensils, cups and napkins.

### **Tour and Potluck Schedule**

**10:30 meet at Singing Tree Gardens Nursery, arrange car pool and directions**

**10:45—12:15 Drive to and visit Stage Coach Hill azaleas**

**12:15—1:30 Drive to and visit Pat Wells' garden (rest stop along the way)**

**1:30 Return to Singing Tree for potluck**

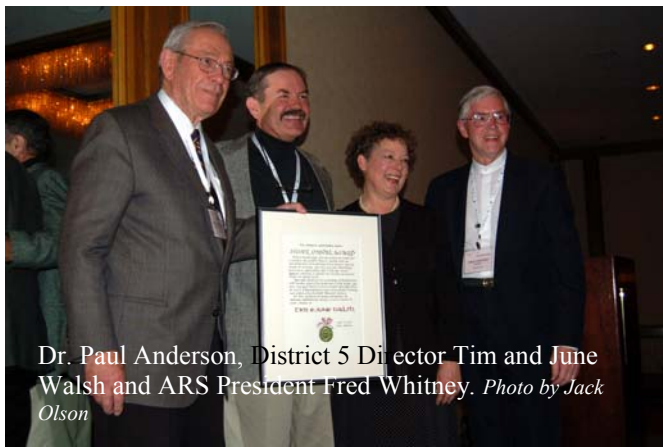
*Be sure to bring chairs or blankets to sit on in the garden. All of your potluck items should be in coolers or require no refrigeration or cooking...this is a picnic!*

*Toilets are available at Singing Tree Gardens, no toilets at the Azalea Reserve nor at the Wells' garden. We will stop at the highway rest stop.*



R. occidentale, Photo by Tim

*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.*



Dr. Paul Anderson, District 5 Director Tim and June Walsh and ARS President Fred Whitney. Photo by Jack Olson

**Tim and June Walsh were awarded the American Rhododendron Society's Silver Medal at the annual Convention in Tulsa, Oklahoma in April 2008.** To say that they were "surprised, humbled and honored" is using too mild language to describe how they felt.

The citation reads;

"Between the two of you, you have served at the Chapter level as president, vice president, treasurer, newsletter editor and membership chair and at the board level as treasurer, alternate director and secretary. You have used your extraordinary leadership and organizational skills to help stage Western Regional Conferences, a National ARS Convention and numerous Chapter and regional events.

You have shared your love and knowledge of Rhododendrons with countless people as true ambassadors of the Society. You have encouraged interest in and disseminated knowledge about the world of Rhododendrons in your many activities, including such projects as the Humboldt Botanical Gardens.

For these significant and lasting contributions, the American Rhododendron Society is proud to award the Silver Medal to Tim and June Walsh." April 19, 2008



Tim and June Walsh and ARS and ARS Gold Medalist Bob Weissman. Photo by Jack Olson

**Bob Weissman, De Anza Chapter member and ARS Web Master, was awarded the ARS's highest honor the Gold Medal, in Tulsa, Oklahoma at the annual convention.**

"You have served as the Chairman of the Electronic Media and Digital Publications Committees for the American Rhododendron Society and have served as Webmaster; in addition you have managed (OARS) website.

From the hundreds of thousands of "visits" on the [www.rhododendron.org](http://www.rhododendron.org) site it is clear to see that your work is critical to the Society's goal of educating the world about rhododendrons and their culture.

Your efforts have enabled the world to learn about the genus Rhododendron, the people involved, the research taking place, the gardens with rhododendrons at their heart, the search for and preservation of Rhododendron habitat, and new techniques of hybridizing, care and propagation.

You have worked untold hours toward furthering the aspirations and goals of the ARS to the benefit of every society member and the world.

This Gold Medal, the American Rhododendron Society's highest honor, is awarded to Bob Weissman for your years of service to the Society." April 19, 2008

## Plant of the Month: *R. occidentale*

*By Don Wallace*

Western Azalea. This is the only species of Azalea that is found west of The Rocky Mountains. It was discovered by the expedition of Capt. Beechy in 1827 and called *A. calendulacea*. Later in 1855, the plant was recognized as a distinct species *A. californica*, but a year later changed to *A. occidentale*. The species is found growing in isolated populations from southern California to parts of Oregon and Washington. This species has been found associated with soils having a high concentration of serpentine. The species can grow as large as 15 ft. tall and blooms in late May and into June. It is hardy to -12 F. and is quite fragrant with the perfume being detected many yards away. It is generally unsuccessful in regions of the country with warm humid summers.

One of the largest stands of *R. occidentale* is here in Humboldt County on Stagecoach Hill just above Big Lagoon. Many collectors from all over the U.S. come every year to photograph this beautiful species and to collect seed. There have been many unique forms found, including 'Pistil Packin' Mama', 'Leonard Frisbie', and 'Picotee'.

Photo by Don Wallace



## The President's Corner

*By President Tim Walsh*

Rhododendron occidentale, one of our two native Rhododendrons will be the feature of our upcoming road trip and year-end potluck. While many of us probably recognize our native Azalea you may not know that the most diverse population of differing "forms" of this fabulous plant occur just north of us near Big Lagoon. Kane Road's swarm of *R. occidentale* is literally the Mecca for Azalea enthusiasts from around the world with good reason. Our late bloom year should have us visiting the Azalea Reserve just at its peak allowing you to be able to brag to your Azalea friends that "...oh yeah, I've been there at the peak"!

The long range forecast calls for clear skies and warm days so we hope every member will fix their favorite food and bring it along for what will be a great weekend trek, garden tour and feast! Bring a friend or two as well and you'll have a doubly good time!

Check out Wikipedia online for great information: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Western\\_azalea](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Western_azalea)



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

### *May Mini-Show Highlights and Cash Winners*

By Jerry Reynolds

**Dee Spencer** won the Best of Show award – and the \$100 cash prize – at Eureka Chapter's Mini Show during the chapter meeting on May 22.

Dee's truss of 'Trude Webster' also won first place in Class 4 for pink hybrid rhododendrons.

There were two double winners: Vice president **Betty Bottemiller** won firsts in Class 3 (red hybrids) and Class 8 (bicolor hybrids), while **Hal and Denise Braafladt** won firsts in class 5 (white hybrids) with a truss of 'Belle Heller' and in Class 9 (fragrant rhododendrons) with 'Pink Trumpets.'

The winners, by class:

Class 2 (elepidote species): 1. **Don Wallace**, R. elliotti; 2. **Carol Ollivier**, r. 'Yaku Sunrise'; 3. **Hal and Denise Braafladt**.

Class 3 (red hybrids): 1. **Betty Bottemiller**; 2. **Carol Ollivier**; 3. (tie) **Verne Trinoskey, Karen Rochames**.

Class 4 (pink hybrids): 1. **Dee Spencer**, 'Trude Webster'; 2. **Betty Bottemiller**, 'Anna Rose Whitney'; 3. (tie) **Marilyn Batt**, 'Denali'; **Vivian Ziegler**, 'Scintillation'; and **Tom Martin**.

Class 5 (white hybrids): 1. **Hal and Denise Braafladt**, 'Belle Heller'; 2. (tie) **Tom Martin** and **Paula Trinoskey**; 3. **Trish Ortiz**, 'Sappho.'

Class 6 (purple, lavender and blue hybrids): 1. **Jerry Reynolds**, 'Anah Kruschke'; 2. **Leon Zlatkoff**, 'Midnight Mystique'; 3. **Don Wallace**, 'Kokardia.'

Class 7 (yellow, apricot and orange hybrids): 1. **Carol Ollivier**, 'Apricot Fantasy'; 2. **Paula Trinoskey**, 'Horizon Monarch'; 3. (tie) **Dee Spencer**, 'Lem's Cameo'; **Karen Rochames**, 'Lem's Monarch'; and **Don Wallace**, 'Top Brass' X 'Viennese Waltz.'

Class 8 (bicolor hybrids): 1. **Betty Bottemiller**, 'Grandma's Hat'; 2. **Paula Trinoskey**, 'Honey Butter'; 3. **Don Wallace**, 'Tahitian Dawn' X ('Orange Snapps' x 'Tropicana').

Class 9 (fragrant rhododendrons): 1. **Hal and Denise Braafladt**. 'Pink Trumpets'; 2. **Joel Ziegler**, 'Fragrantissimum'; 3. **Carol Ollivier**.

Class 10 (new hybrids): 1. **Don Wallace**, 'Christmas Candy'; 2. Don Wallace, 'Painted Skies' X 'Viennese Waltz'; 3. Don Wallace, 'Nancy Evans' X 'Lord Ellis.'