

## AMERICAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

### *Eureka Chapter*

***The next meeting***  
*Thursday April 22 , 7:00 p.m.*  
*Eureka Woman's Club*  
*1531 J Street*  
*Eureka, California*

*Pre-Meeting No Host Dinner 5:15*  
*Adel's Restaurant , 1724 Broadway*  
*Eureka, **Call Nelda, 707-443-8049***  
*For a reservation so there will be enough*  
*seating*



R. Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn X R. koneri  
Pinkie©, photo by John Koelsch, Cal Chapter

## April 2010

## Fred Whitney Best Gardens Near and Far

The Eureka Chapter will meet **April 22nd at 7:00 p.m.** at the Eureka Woman's Club 1531 J Street in Eureka. Our very special guest speaker is Fred Whitney who will be traveling from Kent, Washington with his wife Ann. Fred is Past President of the American Rhododendron Society and currently serves on the Executive Committee.

Fred grew up in eastern Washington state, which is a desert without irrigation, where rhododendrons did not exist! Fred said, "It was on a landscape class field trip in the Vancouver, WA/Portland, OR area that I became aware of these things called rhododendrons, which have become such an addiction to us since 1971." Fred and Ann have collected rhododendrons over the years, both species and hybrids, which now encompass at least 1,500 plants in growth stages from 2 feet to 25 feet. They have been fortunate to inherit some very old plants from some of the rhodo pioneers like Joe Davis and Britt Smith. These plants are very special for both enjoying now and planning for their eventual "passage to next generations" in the future.

The rhodo-addiction has likewise afforded Fred and Ann the opportunity to travel both within North America and to other countries of the world. Their favorite destination has been the Southern Hemisphere where they enjoy an additional springtime. Through these travels they have made many friends in Australia and New Zealand as well as the British Isles and Sikkim (India). Fred says, "Basically, most gardeners are "salt of the earth" and the common love of flowers brings many mutually enjoyable experiences."

As a result of the many years of "rhodo-philing", Fred and Ann have had the pleasure of visiting many gardens of all statures in many places. Fred will share some of those highlights with you as a way to "remember for us" and "share some possibilities for exploring for you."

*Photographs by Fred and Ann Whitney, at left the Fred and Ann Whitney with their rhododendrons, at right Grand Dad Fred with the budding rhodo-phile Grandson Duncan.*



*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.*

# Rhododendron Show and Plant Sale

April 23, 24 and 25

*By Nelda Palmer*

Are your rhododendrons beginning to bloom? Even with the big wind and rain things are waking up! It looks like a wonderful year. It would be really great if all of you could bring at least one truss, photograph, flower arrangement or plant to enter for the show on Friday April 23<sup>th</sup>, entries are accepted from 5 pm to 9 pm and on Saturday April 24<sup>th</sup> from 7 am to 9 am.

***Plant Sale;*** There are some benefits to coming to the set up and sale on Friday. There will be a ***member's only plant sale*** as the trailer is unloaded. Imagine! First choice of the plants the Chapter has chosen for the sale. On Friday ***Members will get first choice and the special price of \$8.00 per plant or \$9.00 for a plant showing color in the bloom.***

***At the Plant Sale on Saturday and Sunday*** plants will be \$10.00 ea., \$45.00 for 5 and \$8.00 each over 8 plants. If you have attended some of the more recent Eureka Chapter plant sales, you will know that there have been some very special plants available. Who knows what will be in the collection this year?

***Everyone bringing in a truss, a plant, a photo or arrangement for the show will receive a free raffle ticket for a very special drawing.*** A drawing will be held to win plants. And, to top it off, you will see what others are bringing in for the show. Remember, the trusses do not have to be perfect. Many of you have old or unusual rhododendrons that others would enjoy seeing. So, even if you do not believe yours is "good enough" to compete, bring it in to show its lovely color or form.

**All events are St. Bernard's Elementary School, Henderson and C Streets, Eureka**

Friday April 23<sup>th</sup> 3 p.m.—6 p.m. Set up

Friday April 23<sup>th</sup> 5 p.m.—7 p.m. Member Only Plant Sale

Friday April 23<sup>th</sup> 6 p.m.—9 p.m. Entries accepted, Flowers, photographs, Bonsai

Saturday April 24<sup>th</sup> 7 a.m.-9 a.m. Entries accepted, Flowers, plants, photographs, Bonsai and Flower arrangements

Saturday April 24<sup>th</sup> 10:00 a.m. Judging begins (visitors are not allowed in the aisles where the judges and clerks are working)

**Saturday April 24<sup>th</sup> 10:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m. Flower Show and Plant Sale Open to the public.**

**Sunday April 25<sup>th</sup> 9:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m. Flower Show and Plant Sale Open to the public.**





Az. 'Arneson Gem'

**Plant of the Month**  
***Azalea 'Arneson Gem'***  
***By Don Wallace***

Beginning in the 1950's, schoolteachers Ivan and Robertha Arneson of Canby Oregon began hybridizing deciduous azaleas. They started with Mollis azaleas and then started using Exbury azaleas in the mix. In the beginning they used only the named deciduous azaleas, but as some of their seedlings started showing promise they made crosses with their own seedlings. By the 1980's, they were making about 100 crosses a year, with goals of developing intense flower color. Many of their hybrids are registered, and are being grown and sold nationwide. Some of their best include 'Molalla Red', 'Arneson's Flame', 'Arneson's Golden Solitaire', 'Arneson's Ruby', 'Arneson Cameo', and 'Arneson Gem'. 'Arneson Gem' is my pick for the plant of the month with its golden flowers edged in brightly glowing red-orange. This de-

ciduous azalea is one of the brightest in the garden and attracts the most attention. It will grow to 5 feet tall and 6 feet wide in 10 years. It opens in mid April.

*(Some information taken from 'The Pacific Coast Rhododendron Story' by Sonja Nelson)*

**[Mark your calendars for Sunday May 23rd](#)**

Humboldt Botanical Garden will be dedicating the Moss Family Temperate Woodland Garden. The Eureka Chapter and many of its members have donated significant funds and spent many hours planning, planting and weeding this beautiful section of the Humboldt Botanical Garden. There will be a plant sale from 10 to 11 am for members only and continuing for the public until 3 pm. The ribbon cutting and dedication will be held in the Moss Family Temperate Woodland Garden at 1 pm. Bring your family and friends for a day in the Garden. For more information call June or Tim at 443-0604 or Max at HBG office 442-5139.

**Speaking of kindness and coddling**, “Some ladies asked me why their plant had died. They had got it from the very best place, and were sure they had done their very best for it ...They had made a nice hole with their new trowel, and...had bought a tin of Concentrated Fertilizer, had emptied it into the hole, put in the plant, covered it up and given it lots of water – and it had died! ...they were the best and kindest of women, who would never have dreamed of feeding a baby beef steaks and raw brandy.”

*Gertrude Jekyll*

## WORD OF THE MONTH

*By Bruce Palmer*

The word of the month is **MUD**. It's starting to disappear from our gardens, but that's not why mud is the word this month. Your name will be **Mud** if you don't bring some rhododendron flowers, photographs, flower arrangements, or plants to the show this year.

The term "**your name is mud**" predates Dr. Samuel Mudd and his treatment of President Lincoln's assassin, but is still relevant ever since its original use in 1823.

PLEASE help us put on a good, complete show for the public on April 24 and 25. Your trusses and plants don't need to be perfect; the main object is education, not competition. You will be rewarded for your efforts this year if you participate. See Nelda's show article for details.

## More...Rhododendron Show and Plant Sale

**April 23, 24 and 25**

*By Nelda Palmer*

**The Flower Arrangement themes for this year are;**

**Novice Class “Spring Surprise”, Open Class 1 truss “Woodland Wonder”, and Open Class “Oriental Spring”.** Find that wonderful old vase or an interesting new one and make a flower arrangement featuring fresh rhododendrons and/or azaleas as well as other complementary flowers and foliage. We had many novice entries last year so the arrangement table looked wonderful. Let's do it again! If you'd like to enter or have questions please call Carol Dunning 442-7090.

**Show entries accepted; Flowers, photographs, Bonsai and Flower arrangements, educational displays, plants.**

**Friday April 23rd 6 to 9 p.m. and Saturday April 24th 7 to 9 a.m. No entries will be accepted after 9:00 a.m. on Saturday.**



## A Brief Glossary for Showing Rhododendrons

By Frances Burns, Eugene Chapter Newsletter Editor-in-Chief

**Truss** - all the flowers that come from ONE bud on a rhododendron stem

**Spray** - More than one truss on ONE branch of a rhododendron plant

**Lepidote** - scaly leaves, usually small-leafed rhododendrons, scales can be viewed with a magnifying glass

**Elepidote** - non-scaly leaves. Usually the larger-leafed rhododendrons, though some have quite small leaves.

**Species** - populations of plants that have a high level of genetic similarity, differing from closest neighbors in at least two characteristics, differing in geographical distribution, and differing in ecological distribution, such as sun, shade, wind, etc. Always use *species*, never *specie*, whether singular or plural. The groupings for species are: **Subgenus/Subsection**

**Hybrid** - the offspring of two plants of different species or varieties

**Azaleas**: all azaleas are elepidotes – they never have scales, have 5 lobes to a flower and usually 5 stamens.

**Deciduous Azalea** - a rhododendron belonging to subgenus Pentanthera (deciduous)

**Evergreen Azalea** - a rhododendron belonging to the subgenus Tsustusti (mostly evergreen)

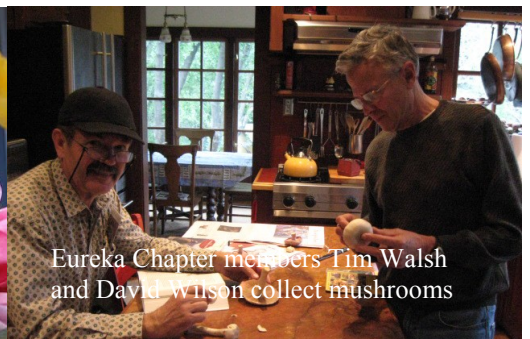
**Classification** is the task of placing rhododendrons within their own particular grouping.



Barb Martin planting a memorial tree at Humboldt Botanical Garden with Tim Walsh



December blooming Vireya Rhododendrons



Eureka Chapter members Tim Walsh and David Wilson collect mushrooms



Eureka Chapter members Nelda Palmer, Ellie Gayner, Bruce Palmer and Mary Gearheart planting in the rain at HBG



Noyo Chapter member Dennis McKiver with Eureka Show Silver



Member Max at HBG



Ellie, Bruce and Nelda planning to plant at HBG

**April** comes from the Latin word *aperio*, meaning "to open or bud," because plants begin to grow this month.



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

### Future Programs

<b>Thursday April 22, 2010 7:00 p.m.</b>	Fred Whitney, Great Gardens Visited
<b>Friday April 23, at St Bernard's School from 5 to 7 help off-load plants for sale, members first pick plant sale</b>	
<b>April 24 through April 25, 2010</b>	Rhododendron Show and Plant Sale
<b>Sunday May 23</b>	<b>Humboldt Botanical Garden, Temperate Woodland Garden dedication</b>
<b>Thursday May 27, 2010 6:30 p.m.</b>	Pizza and Mini Show
<b>Sunday June 13, 2010</b>	Garden Tour and Potluck Picnic
<b>July and August</b>	<b>No meetings, everyone is busy weeding!</b>
<b>September 23, 2010</b>	Dave Eckerdt, "Gardens and Plants of New Zealand"
<b>October 28, 2010</b>	Program TBA
<b>November 2010</b>	No meeting, enjoy Thanksgiving
<b>December 9, 2010</b>	Holiday Potluck
<b>January 27, 2011</b>	Happy New Year, Program TBA
<b><u>New meeting Location, We will be meeting at the Woman's Club at 1531 J Street in Eureka unless otherwise announced. Programs are subject to change.</u></b>	

### Eureka Chapter Officers and Board Members

#### September 2009 to June 2010 (elections will be held in June)

Betty Bottemiller, President	707-822-4935	bbbettybotts@gmail.com
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