

AMERICAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

Eureka Chapter

The next meeting

*Thursday Sept. 23rd @ 6:30 p.m.
Woman's Club
1531 J Street
Eureka, California*

6:30 Pizza Night

***You bring a dessert, drinks,
or salad, the Chapter will
supply everything else***



September 2010

Gardens and Plants of New Zealand

The Eureka Chapter will kick off its 2010—2011 Rhodo year with a **Pizza Party** on **Thursday September 23rd at 6:30 pm** at the **Eureka Woman's Club at 1531 J Street in Eureka**. Members should bring a salad or dessert to share. The Chapter will provide the Pizza, plates, napkins and utensils. Members may want to bring special beverages, too. The Chapter will provide coffee and tea.

The Eureka Chapter will continue its very popular **Bring-a-Guest-Get-a-Plant** program. See June or Tim Walsh for details and learn how you can **get a free plant just by inviting someone to come to a meeting with you**.

The September 23rd program will be given by **Dave Eckerdt** from the Salem Chapter. Dave and his wife, Pat, live in Salem, Oregon in a 117 year old home surrounded by a two acre "collector's garden". The twenty year old garden known as ***Deerly Missed*** has been featured on television and in newspapers. While Dave claims Rhododendrons as his favorite plant the Eckerdts are not genus loyal, being members of the Conifer Society, the North American Rock Garden Society, the Clematis Society, and several Oregon plant groups as well as The American Rhododendron Society. Dave is a past president and the current president of the Salem Hardy Plant Society.

Last year Dave and Pat attended the New Zealand Rhododendron Conference in Auckland. Altogether they spent five weeks visiting 58 gardens while driving 4000 miles and taking 8000 photos. Dave's presentation, **The Gardens and Plants of New Zealand with an Emphasis on Rhododendrons**, will showcase the best of what they saw.

Dave said, "Pat and I made a 'garden ramble' to New Zealand, a visit beginning with a conference sponsored by the New Zealand Rhododendron Association. I had heard from many folks who have made this journey how much they hated leaving NZ and I now understand why, the primary reason is knowing you have to get back on that airplane.

Our itinerary on this trip was dictated by the New Zealand Gardens of Significance Guidebook which we ordered before we left home. New Zealand has an official pyramid of garden worthiness and gardens may apply for recognition. A team of Garden Trust assessors from the New Zealand Institute of Horticulture will be dispatched to evaluate the candidate for possible endorsement. If the garden passes muster it may be awarded the status of "Registered", "Regionally Significant", "Nationally Significant", or "Internationally Significant". Thus the non-Kiwi is provided a checklist of where to spend one's garden hours and garden dollars. The official garden guidebook was produced for the tourist trade. The introductory pages include rules of garden etiquette obviously written for boisterous "off islanders". "Control your children, avoid trampling on plants, DO NOT leave litter, DO NOT create any noise in the garden, and Drive in the Left hand lane! At least they didn't feel the need to remind us to wash our hands after visiting the loo."

The Eureka Chapter hopes its members will make Dave and Pat welcome.

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. Above photo by Dave Eckerdt of Maple Glen, NZ.

A THOUGHT FOR TODAY:

Oh, threats of hell and hopes of paradise!
One thing at least is certain -- this life flies;
One thing is certain, and the rest is lies;
The flower that once has blown forever dies.

Omar Khayyam, poet, mathematician, philosopher, astronomer, and physician (1048-1131)



Plant of the Month
Rhododendron
'Honey Butter'

If you love flowers with apricot-peach tones, you will love the rhododendron 'Honey Butter'. Created by Jim Barlup of Bellevue, Washington, this medium sized rhododendron has lovely rounded leaves that come out in copper-bronze tones, and then slowly darken to green. The seed parent of 'Honey Butter' is 'Nancy Evans' and the pollen parent is the unnamed hybrid 'China x Lem's Cameo'. Both of these hy-

brids are in the yellow-peachy shades, and have attractive foliage. 'Honey Butter' will grow to 4 ft. tall and 5 ft. wide in 10 years, so is not going to take over your garden. One might want to plant 'Honey Butter' near one or more of the fine blue flowering Rhododendron *augustinii* hybrid rhododendrons like 'Blue Baron', 'Blaney's Blue' or 'Crater Lake' for a flower show that will really please the eye.

Editor's note: Don Wallace has been doing the Plant of the Month for several years. I hope that you will let him know how much you appreciate these informative articles. Don is also the Program Chairman and has planned a great 2010-2011 season for you.

September is American Rhododendron Society Membership renewal month. What a great time to give a Christmas gift to friends and family ,too. See June Walsh to renew or add a gift.

WORD OF THE MONTH

By Bruce Palmer

This month's word is **FERTILIZER**. The word descends through Middle English and Old French from the Latin *fertilis*, to bear. The first definition of the word in the dictionary is "one who fertilizes". That's what we should be doing this month, at least in our area and southward. At this time of year it is a good idea to add nutrients to the soil to help the plants make it through the wet winter when the goodies will be leached out of the soil by the rains.

Nutrients are the atoms and molecules plants use to construct cell parts, grow and flower. The bag of fertilizer you use has a line on it that reads something like 10-10-10 or N10-P10-K10. The numbers stand for the percentages of available nutrients, but what do those symbols (N,P,K) mean? Why are they so important? All three of the major molecules in cells (carbohydrates, fats and proteins) contain carbon, hydrogen and oxygen (C, H and O). Plants can get all of these atoms they need from water, air and soil. What higher plants can't get without help, though, is nitrogen, the N (or first number) on your fertilizer bag. That's important because all proteins contain nitrogen (N) in addition C, H and O. Every part of a cell is a protein or is constructed by enzymes, which are proteins. The air is 80% nitrogen but higher plants can't use N from the air as it is; nitrogen is inert and doesn't combine readily with other atoms. To be usable by higher plants such as our rhodies, it typically must be attached (fixed) to an oxygen atom. Certain kinds of bacteria do most of the fixing in the soil and higher plants take it up from there. Plants need so much of it, though, that if you want good looking garden plants you need to give them extra usable (fixed) nitrogen.

P stands for phosphorus. Phosphorus is used by cells to store the energy produced in photosynthesis and respiration. It takes extra energy to make flowers, fruits and seeds. Plants can get enough phosphorus from the soil if it is loose and well-drained, but clay particles trap it and don't let it move or get taken up by plants, so if you want good flowers in your garden, you need to give your plants extra phosphorus.

K indicates potassium. Potassium is one of those elements that act to help enzymes do their work. It is used in large quantities by plants but is not generally present in the soil in sufficient amounts for healthy looking garden plants.

There's an extensive list of other nutrients a plant requires. Magnesium, for example, is what gives the chlorophyll molecule its green color. The energy of sunlight is trapped by chlorophyll. Chlorophyll in plant cells is different from hemoglobin in our red blood cells primarily in that hemoglobin contains iron instead of magnesium and holds oxygen instead of light energy. These other nutrients, often called micronutrients, include such elements as iron, sulfur and a number of others. They are not usually in short supply in the soil so most of the time you won't have to worry about them. If you fertilize regularly, though, and your plants still don't look good, then you need to ask someone about applying micronutrients.

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Paul Anderson, Founding Member of Eureka Chapter Honored with ARS Silver Medal

Eureka Chapter member Paul Anderson, MD was awarded the Silver Medal at the May American Rhododendron Convention held in New York. Paul was also a founding member of the Eureka Chapter. The citation reads:

You have served the American Rhododendron Society in many ways since you joined in 1964. You are a Life member and have served as president of the Eureka Chapter and California Chapter. You have served as District 5 Director and currently serve as chairman of the Long Range Planning Committee.

You were instrumental in establishing two new chapters, Eureka and Hawaii.

You have worked untold hours toward furthering the aspirations and goals of the ARS to the benefit of every society member who has had the pleasure of attending a meeting where you have given a program, or visiting your garden.

The American Rhododendron Society Silver Medal is awarded to Paul Anderson, MD for your years of untiring and dedicated service to the Society.

Paul recently shared his recollections of his lifelong interest in plants and in particular Rhododendrons;

My home was in southern Wisconsin where I became a 4-H member at about 10 years old. I had a forestry project for several years. I graduated from college with a biology major and enjoyed botany and ecology. After graduating from medical school I attended the UC Berkeley school of Public Health in 1960. I found time to tour Golden Gate Park and noted for the first time some exciting plants that had beautiful colors - rhododendrons. I purchased my first rhododendron - Jean Marie Montague and had it on my deck in Berkeley. I moved to Seattle and took the rhododendron plant with me to Bellevue.

At the 1962 Seattle World's Fair the Seattle Rhododendron Chapter had a huge display - one that I have never seen an equal of - and I joined the ARS. I moved to Eureka in 1976 and joined the Dr Richard Anderson Rhododendron Club and participated in the annual flower shows held in conjunction with Eureka's Rhododendron Festival.

In 1984 the Club voted to join the ARS as a chapter and in 1985 had a flower show again with the Rhododendron Festival. I was president of the chapter for several years and in 1989 I began working in Napa and then attended the California Chapter meetings in Oakland. I served as president of the chapter for several years and then became an alter-

nate district director for several terms and then became the ARS District 5 Director for 2 terms to 2009. I currently am the chairman of the ARS Long Range Planning Committee and have a life membership in the Seattle Chapter of ARS. Photo at left shows Paul Anderson with his sister, Marilyn Jorgensen (left), along with his school chum Marty Anderson (right) and ARS President Fred Whitney who made the Silver Medal presentation.



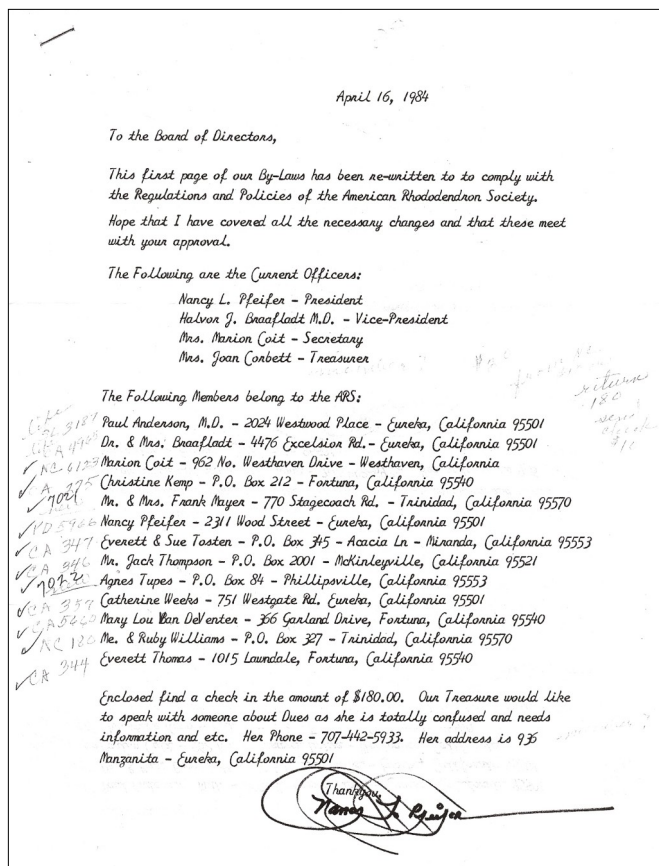
Paul Anderson, continued from page 4

Tim Walsh, Past President and current Vice President of the Eureka Chapter shares his ARS story of Paul;

I first met Dr. Anderson when I attended my first Eureka Chapter meeting sometime in the late 1980's. Paul was the chapter president and he personally welcomed June and me to the chapter! For a true neophyte this created a lasting impression, to say the least. The impression that I had of Rhododendron enthusiasts was that they had an immense background of specialized knowledge that was accessible mainly to medical professionals and specialist nursery owners. The Eureka Chapter had, after all, been formed from the Eureka Rhododendron Club which had been started by Doctors Richard Anderson and Hal Braafladt! Paul quickly removed that impression at our first meeting and was instrumental in getting me involved in chapter activities (I became chapter president within 3 years)!

Paul has been involved in many ways with the American Rhododendron Society over the years, locally and at the national and international level. He is well known by many members and virtually all society officers as well as Rhodo geeks from many countries. We couldn't ask for a better ambassador! I know him particularly well for his recent service as District 5 director (I was his District 5 alternate) and he has left some pretty big shoes for me to fill since he did such a great job.

From visits to his superb garden, to advice about species, from how to run a meeting, to being an ARS ambassador I can't think of anyone who is more deserving of recognition and the Silver Medal!



Above is the 1984 Eureka Chapter founding letter and an early Rhodie Show flyer, perhaps from 1979.



Eureka Chapter/American Rhododendron Society
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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

September 23, 2010	Dave Eckerdt, "Gardens and Plants of New Zealand"
October 28, 2010	Ted Kipping, "Trees and Rhododendrons (Towards Floriferous Co-Existence)"
October 8—10, 2010	Western Regional Conference Florence, OR http://web.me.com/siuslawars/WRC2010/ For Conference information
November 2010	No meeting, enjoy Thanksgiving
December 9, 2010	Holiday Potluck
January 27, 2011	Elaine Sedlack, UC Berkeley Botanical Garden Asian collection throughout the year
February 24, 2011	Don Wallace, "Hybridizing for Beginners"
March 24, 2011	Keith White, MD, "China Expeditions"
April 28, 2011	Bill Hicks, "Lepidote Rhododendrons"
April 29, 30 and May 1	Rhododendron Show and Sale
May 11 –15, 2011	ARS Annual Convention, Vancouver WA
May 26, 2011	Mini– Show and Pizza
June 5, 2011	Garden Tour and Potluck Picnic

Eureka Chapter Officers and Board Members September 2010 to June 2011

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