

AMERICAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

Eureka Chapter

The next meeting

Thursday January 26, 7:00 p.m.
Woman's Club
1531 J Street
Eureka, California

Pre-Meeting No Host Dinner 5:15
Sea Grill, 316 E Street Eureka

Call Nelda, 707-443-8049
No seating without reservations



Stage Coach Hill R. Occidentale, June 2011

January 2011

Outlaws on Stagecoach Hill

On **Thursday January 26th** the Eureka Chapter will welcome Dick Cavender to give a program on ***R. occidentale***, our own native Western Azalea. The meeting begins at **7:00 at the Woman's Club 1531 J Street, Eureka.**

Rhododendron occidentale does not conform to the taxonomist's definition of a species. Taxonomists expect a species to be fairly uniform and *Rhododendron occidentale* is not. It is extremely variable both in flowers and foliage.

Dick (aka 'Red') Cavender is the owner and operator of Red's Rhodies, Sherwood, Oregon specializing in *Rhododendron occidentale*. He has been an avid collector, hybridizer and grower of *Rhododendron occidentale* for some 45 years. He is the hybridizer of *R. occidentale* 'Frank Mossman'. He and his wife Karen have been members of the American Rhododendron Society since 1969. Dick is a Life member of Portland Chapter, and is an associate member of many other chapters. He has served as Treasurer and President of Portland Chapter and Director of District. 4. He was honored with the Silver Medal from the American Rhododendron Society and the Bronze Medal from the Portland Chapter. Dick says that his garden and nursery would not be possible without Karen's help as she feeds, clothes, and generally take care of him. Karen has also been awarded a Bronze Medal from the Portland Chapter, American Rhododendron Society.

Red's Rhodies is a hobby that got severely out of control. The focus has changed over the years as the Cavender's tastes and interests have evolved. Dick's first love was, and still is, the genus *Rhododendron* and especially our native Western Azalea, *R. occidentale*. He grows some 30 to 40 selected clones and has carried on a long term hybridizing program to develop bigger and better *R. occidentale*.

If you ever are in Sherwood, Oregon Dick and Karen have a garden well worth the time to visit, just give them a call to let them know you are coming.

Come learn all you can about our local Azalea!



Another Stagecoach Hill Azalea

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.



The Annual Rhododendron Show and Plant Sale April 27th, 28th and 29th.

Now is the time to start thinking about what we can enter in the show. We all know about trusses and sprays. We also have the opportunity to enter flower arrangements, photographs, Rhododendron and Azalea Bonsai, educational displays and Rhododendron and Azalea plants. Hopefully we will have more entries in all classes this year.

There are a few rule changes being considered. Any changes will be explained in the newsletter and at our regular meetings before the show. So mark your calendars and start getting ready for the Annual Show and Plant sale.

By Show Co-Chairs Tom and Mary Marking

Plant of the Month

By Don Wallace

The 'Leonardslee' form of *Rhododendron arboreum* is our January plant of the month. There are several species and many named forms of *R. arboreum*, and one of most distinctive is *R. arboreum* ssp. *arboreum* 'Leonardslee'. We received our first cuttings many years ago from Dr. Paul Anderson, whose garden we have toured around show time here in the spring. This rho-



**Rh. arboreum ssp. arboreum
'Leonardslee'**

dodendron eventually grows to around 10 ft. tall and has long narrow dark-green leaves with bright silver plastered indumentum. Like many other members of this species, the leaves hang almost vertical, giving the plant a look that some don't like. However, the silver indumentum is more easily seen, and as one gets used to this plant's form, it becomes a favorite. The flowers appear in February and are very lovely. Full ball trusses of very light pink with darker edges are often called 'picotee' by some. Two of these were planted in the Moss Family Temperate Woodland Garden at Humboldt Botanical Garden and will be in full flower soon, so be sure to go and take a look.

THE WORD: XEROPHYTE

By Bruce Palmer, Eureka Chapter President

Xerophyte, from the Greek *xeros*, dry, and *Phytos*, plant, is an appropriate word for this month, given the historic dry winter we're experiencing. Xerophytes are plants that thrive in dry conditions, typical of deserts and high altitudes. Rhododendrons aren't typical xerophytes (though many exhibit some of the adaptations to dryness and high altitude living). Rhodies are in the family Ericaceae (classical Latin name for Erica, the heather). Some of the members of the family Ericaceae are xerophytes, most notably Manzanita, *Arctostaphylos spp.* *Arctostaphylos*, from the Greek *Arctos*, bear and *Staphyle*, a bunch of grapes describes both the fruit of Manzanita and its major means of distribution. A common name for several species of Manzanita is bear berry. Manzanita shows several of the important plant adaptations to dryness. It has thick leaves for water storage, waxy layers on both sides of the leaves to prevent water from escaping, a whitish cast in many species to reflect sunlight, few stomata (Greek *Stoma*, mouth) to control the intake and output of gasses, and relatively small leaves to minimize surface exposure to high temperatures.

Cacti are typical xerophytes. The cactus family originally was restricted to desert regions of North and South America, with one disputed exception. Cactus is an interesting name, taken from the Greek *Kaktos*, designating a Mediterranean relative of the artichoke, the Cardoon, but Cardoons are not cacti. Cacti typically have no leaves; the petioles develop into the familiar spines. Large quantities of water are stored in the stem. All of the photosynthesis takes place in the stems. The carbon dioxide used in photosynthesis is taken in only at night when it is cooler and sequestered for use the next day.

What does all this have to do with our rhodies? If we don't get the typical amount of rain this winter, we may have to watch our plants closely and give them more water than we usually would. That could be especially true for those that don't have thick, waxy leaves, such as some of the big-leafed varieties. Let's enjoy the rare winter sunshine while it lasts, but be prepared to take action if our rainfall totals are well below average after the flower show.

Photos: Cacti at Kew, Manzanita at Humboldt Botanical Garden, Cardoon at Walsh's Rhody Hostel.





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

January 26, 2012, 7:00 PM
February 23, 2012, 7:00 PM
March 22, 2012, 7:00 PM
April 26, 2012, 7:00 PM
April 28 & 29
May 4 to 7, 2012
May 24, 2012, 6:00 PM
June 10, 2012
September 21 to 23, 2012

Programs are subject to change.

Dick "Red" Cavender, *Rhododendron occidentale*
Peter Haggard, What bugs are those?
Steve Hootman, Rhododendron Collecting in the Wild
Rhodo 101
Rhododendron Festival Flower Show and Plant Sale
ARS Annual Convention, Asheville, North Carolina
Members' Mini Show and Potluck
Members' Garden Tour and Potluck picnic
Western Regional ARS Conference, Nanaimo, BC

"Appalachian Spring", the 2012 ARS-ASA International Convention takes place **May 4 – 7**, 2012 in beautiful Asheville, North Carolina, in the heart of the picturesque Blue Ridge Mountains where native azaleas and rhododendrons burst into bloom every spring. <http://www.azaleas.org/convention12.html>

Eureka Chapter Officers and Board Members September 2011 to June 2012

Bruce Palmer, President	707-443-8045	bnpalmer@humboldt1.com
Betty Bottemiller, Past President	707-822-4935	bbbettybotts@gmail.com
Tim Walsh, Vice President	707-443-0604	timwalsh1@suddenlink.net
Gail Ledbetter, Secretary	707-822-9678	luvchoc@pacbell.net
June Walsh, Treasurer, Newsletter	707-443-0604	RhodyHostel@suddenlink.net
Trish Ortiz, Membership	707-822-3330	tgiddingortiz@gmail.com
Don Wallace, Programs	707-839-8777	donw@singtree.com
Bruce and Nelda Palmer, Show Co-Chairs	707-443-8049	bnpalmer@humboldt1.com
Tom and Mary Marking, Show Co-Chairs	707-839-2073	tmmarking@sbcglobal.net
Ellie Gayner, Publicity	707-443-1291	egayner@hotmail.com
Jerry Reynolds, Director	707-269-9533	jerry_reynolds@suddenlink.net
Doug Batt, Director	707-444-2702	dbattspot@sbcglobal.net