

AMERICAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

Eureka Chapter

The next meeting
Thursday April 25, 7:00 p.m.
Woman's Club
1531 J Street
Eureka, California

Pre-Meeting No Host Dinner 5:15
Roy's Club, 218 D Street Eureka
Call Nelda, 707-443-8049
Reservation is required so there
will be enough seating



April 2013

Rhododendrons of China's Southern Mountains



Don in his garden with a seed grown *R. konori*



Fanjingshan mountains, China

The Eureka Chapter will meet Thursday April 25th at 7:00p.m. at the Woman's Club 1531 J Street in Eureka. The guest speaker will be Dr. Don Selcer who has traveled to many of the Rhododendron Meccas of the world. Don is from Cleveland, Ohio, the home of Holden Arboretum and the Leach Rhododendron Research Station, but it wasn't until he moved to California for pediatric residency training that he discovered gardening. He has recently retired after more than 30 years in his medical practice. Don now volunteers at UCBG in the Asian section.

Don has been gardening with rhodies since the early 80's, mainly growing species from seed on his steep, wooded residential lot in Oakland. He is an active member of the California Chapter. He always liked backpacking, collecting things and photography. Rhododendron trips have combined all his interests. Don has traveled to Sikkim and India with Britt Smith/ARS trip in 1992 and to Yunnan China on a trip led by Graham Smith (Pukeiti) and other New Zealanders in 1999. He traveled on a Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden collecting expedition with Steve Hootman in fall 2001 to another part of Yunnan--this one to explore the Dulong River Valley which had not seen Westerners for 80 years.

Don traveled again with an RSBG sponsored tour in late April and early May 2012 to Guangxi, Guizhou, and Chongqing provinces, seeing rhododendrons and lots of other shrubs, trees, and wildflowers. He will also show some fascinating scenes in ethnic villages.

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 41st Annual Rhododendron Show and Plant Sale

By Mary Marking

It's that time of year, the temperature is starting to warm up, rhodies are starting to bloom and the annual Rhodie show and plant sale is in a few days!!!

Location: Miles Hall, St. Bernard's Elementary School at 115 Henderson Street, Eureka, California.

Open to the public: Saturday April 27th from 10 to 4 and Sunday April 28th from 10 to 3:30. Your friends, relatives, neighbors and the public are encouraged to enter trusses. **Trusses will be accepted for display from 6 PM until 9 PM on Friday and from 7 AM until 9 AM on Saturday. No entries will be accepted after 9 AM.**

Set up will begin at 3:00 PM on Friday the 26th for those of you who are planning to help.

This year we will have the hall all to ourselves. In order to have a great show we need everyone to participate by bring at least 3 trusses. Can you imagine how wonderful the tables will look? We will need the most help with filling the bottles for the trusses. You can also bring your trusses, plants, educational displays, flower arrangements and photos at that time but they will not be accepted for display until 6 PM. Be sure they have plenty of water and the stems are cut long enough to allow the most water to get into the truss.

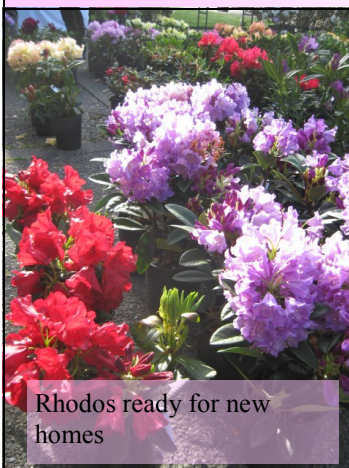
Anyone can enter trusses and plants, Photography, Educational and Flower Arrangements. If you have a special plant that can be dug or is in a pot, bring it in. Also, don't forget there is an **Education category.** We have had some really interesting displays in the past. The **Photography Exhibit** has been a well-filled section. Be sure the photos are matted and not framed.

Carol Dunning will be happy to receive any and all entries for the **Flower Arrangements.** This year we are adding a **Miniature Flower Arrangement** category. The size limitations will be 8 inches by 8 inches by 8 inches. We should have that table at the front of the hall simply full of arrangements. To ensure that there is enough space please call Carol (707- 442-7090) to reserve your space.

Remember, that if you don't believe your flowers are "good enough" for judging, bring them anyway. They will look great as examples of the type of rhododendron they are. They can also fill in the spaces on the tables after the judging. We need all we can get.

This is a great time for everyone to participate, bring your family, friends and neighbors.

Tear Down will begin at **3:30 Sunday April 28th** after which all participants will be served pizza for their diligent hard work.



Rhodos ready for new homes



Gayle Teter, Volunteer coordinator



A few of MANY trusses



Laurie Ervin ready to greet the public

Eureka Chapter Rhododendron Festival Plant Sale

There will be hundreds of choice and unusual Rhododendrons ready to go home with you. Members only sale Friday April 26th from 5—7. The sale will be open to the public Saturday April 27th from 10—4 and Sunday April 28th from 10—3:30. *Print this page for 10% off your total Rhododendron purchase during the show.*

WORD OF THE MONTH

By President Bruce Palmer

The show is coming up rapidly. Nearly everybody in the chapter has **April 26, 27 & 28** marked on calendars thanks to Gayle Teter's persistence with signing up volunteers. Mary Marking and the rest of us appreciate your willingness to help with the show. This month's word is related to one more thing you are asked to do to make the show a resounding success. The word this month is **MUD**. We thought it was never going to appear in our gardens this year, but we have some now. Maybe there will be enough rain for the year after all. That's not why **mud** is the word this month. Your name will be ***Mud*** if you don't **bring some flowers, an arrangement, photographs or educational displays to the show this year.** The term "your name is mud" is usually thought to refer to Dr. Samuel Mudd and his treatment of President Lincoln's assassin, but its original use was more than forty years earlier, in 1823. It's still appropriate today. In addition to your volunteer time during the show, **PLEASE** help us put on a good, complete show for the public on **April 27 and 28**; the show will be magnificent. Your trusses and plants don't need to be perfect; the main object is education, not competition. You will be rewarded for your efforts by seeing your entries among the others. The public is always impressed and we are too.

Humboldt Botanical Garden Spring Plant Sale!

2013 HBGF Spring Plant Sale is scheduled for May 4th from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. This year's sale will feature succulents and ferns alongside a selection of native and ornamental plants. Plant list at HBGF.ORG
May 3rd Presale is open from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. to members only. You can join HBGF at the presale.



Hino Crimson Azalea



A Vireya Rhodo from Don Selcer's garden

Tim Walsh to give tour and talk April 20th at Humboldt Botanical Garden

Humboldt Botanical Garden has an ongoing educational series of talks throughout the year. On **Saturday April 20th from 11 to 1** Eureka Chapter Vice President Tim Walsh will be the guest speaker. The focus of his talk and tour will be the Rhododendrons of the Moss Family Temperate Woodland Garden. Larry Moss was a longtime member of the Eureka Chapter and President of HBG before his death. Larry and other Eureka Chapter members has long envisioned a garden within HBG which would showcase Rhododendrons, Magnolias and other flowering trees as well as plants that do especially well in the unique climate of coastal Humboldt county. Tim is sure to tout one of his favorite plants the Meconopsis poppy from the Himalaya. Its blue color is unmatched in the plant world, and it may be in bloom on April 20th. There will be a few pre-plant-sale plants to pique your interest. HBG Plant Sale will be May 4th.

Tim's April 20th program is free to HBG members, non-members are \$5 each.

Mark your calendars

Sunday June 2nd Garden tour and Potluck Picnic

Sunday June 9th Carpool Tour to the Azalea Reserve at Stagecoach Hill

Don Wallace is putting together another great Garden Tour scheduled for **Sunday June 2nd**. There will be 4 or 5 gardens to visit then a potluck picnic and the awarding of Trophies from the Show. Members are welcome to bring guests.



Sunday June 9th join a carpool tour of the brilliant *Rhododendron occidentale* Azalea Reserve at Stagecoach Hill near Big Lagoon. This has been the Nirvana for azalea hunters for many years and June is a prime time to see them. There may be orchids under the Spruce trees...if you are willing to get on your belly you may take their photo.

Photo, Rhododendron caulifloribunda from your editor's garden (got your attention!)



Plant of the Month

Rhododendron 'Silver Skies'

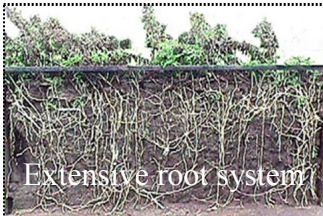
By Don Wallace

Rhododendron 'Silver Skies' was created by Frank Fujioka of Whidbey Island, and famous for being the creator of such award-winning rhododendrons as *Rhododendron* 'Seaview Sunset', *Rhododendron* 'Pomegranate Splash', and *Rhododendron* 'Starbright Champagne'. The parents of this plant are *Rhododendron degronianum* ssp. *yakushimanum* 'Koichiro Wada' x *Rhododendron* 'Medusa'. So, here we have a light pink species rhododendron crossed with an orange flowering hybrid. There is no orange in the flowers, but what an excellent plant it is. The

foliage is always dark-green and shiny. The plant needs some shade to do well, but will thrive in morning sun. Provide a site where it can grow to 4 ft. wide and 2 ft. tall, which will take 10-15 years. The flowering starts in early April, and will last for most of the month. The new growth will have a nice dusting of tomentum, a silky-white film that is prized by collectors, and thought to be a natural "insect deterrent". The leaves are very similar to the 'yak' parent with thick fawn colored indumentum on the undersides.



WEEDS! *Cirsium arvense*, Canada Thistle (perhaps called American Thistle north of the US border) is an introduced European plant, probably in grain seed, to Canada and the United States. It has spiky purplish-pink flowers. The stem is smooth and the leaves are spiny. The flowers are usually dioecious (having girl flowers or boy flowers on separate plants), but not invariably so, with some plants bearing hermaphrodite (both sexes) flowers. The ripe seeds have a feathery pappus which assists in wind dispersal. The plant also spreads underground using rhizomes which form extensive mats. The plant tends to persist despite our most diligent efforts to eliminate it.



The trick is to be always on your game at elimination. Grub out as much of the root as possible, keep removing the new rosette of spiky leaves that emerge after grubbing. The trick is to wear the plant out before it wears you out. Cut off flower heads before the seeds ripen. The best time to treat Canada thistle with foliar-applied herbicides, which move down through the plant, is in early June after the first flower buds are formed and before the flowers open. Herbicides should be used on fall regrowth during September and early October.

The seeds of Canada Thistle are an important food for American Goldfinch and its foliage is used as food by over 20 species of Lepidoptera, including the Painted Lady butterfly. While you too can eat all parts, you will want to remove the spines from the leaves first. It is related to that other thistle, Artichoke, which we cultivate...on purpose. (Sources Wikipedia, Cal Ag Extension web, Reader's Digest "Weeds, Friend or Foe")



Eureka Chapter/American Rhododendron Society
2050 Irving Drive
Eureka, CA 95503-7022

Eureka Chapter

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. Rhodyhostel@suddenlink.net and Membership information are also available from Trish Ortiz, Ars.trish.ortiz@gmail.com. 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.

Future Programs

April 25, 2013

April 26, 27 & 28

May 23, 2013

June 2, 2013

June 9, 2013

July and August

September 26, 2013

Don Selcer, "Plant Hunting in China"

Rhododendron Festival Flower Show and Plant Sale

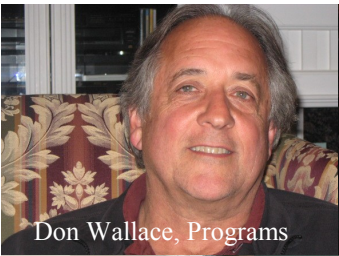
Members' Mini Show and Pizza

Members' Garden Tour and Potluck picnic

Stagecoach Hill Azalea Reserve Carpool Tour

Dead Head, Water and Weed!

Program and Pot luck



Don Wallace, Programs



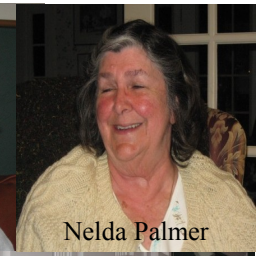
Mary Marking, Show



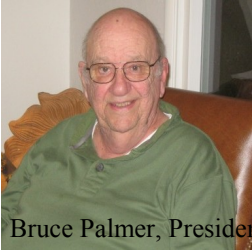
Tom Marking, Show



Ellie Gayner, Publicity



Nelda Palmer



Bruce Palmer, President



Gail Ledbetter, Sec



Max Abrahamsen, Membership



Jerry Reynolds, VP



Trish and Joe Ortiz

President Bruce Palmer appointed a Nominations committee. Elections will be held at the May 23rd meeting. Additional Nominations will be accepted from the membership at the April 25th meeting. The new slate of Officers will fill their posts beginning with the June 2nd Tour and Potluck.

Nominations are:

President -- Bruce Palmer

Membership -- Max Abrahamsen

Programs -- Don Wallace

Past President -- Betty Bottemiller

At-large directors: Nelda Palmer,

Trish Ortiz, who has served so well as Membership Chairman has an obligation as Grandmother. We hope to enlist her talents in other ways.

Vice President -- Jerry Reynolds

Treasurer -- Tim Walsh

Show Co-Chairs: Tom and Mary Marking

Secretary -- Gail Ledbetter

Publicity -- Ellie Gayner