

AMERICAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

Eureka Chapter

The next meeting

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

Pre-Meeting No Host Dinner 5:15

*Kyoto , 320 F Street, Eureka
Fixed Menu @ \$20 each
Call Nelda, 707-443-8049
so there will be enough seating and Food*



Eureka Chapter
American Rhododendron Society

Rhododendrons
in the Redwoods

February 2015

Harold Greer—“*Rhododendron Diversity*”

The Eureka Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society will meet on Thursday, February 26, 2015. The meeting and program will be held at the Eureka Woman's Club 1531 J Street in Eureka beginning at 7:00 P.M.

For many of us in the Rhododendron world, American Rhododendron Society Gold Medalist and Past President **Harold Greer** has been our long-time guru. His books “***Greer's Guidebook to Available Rhododendrons***” and “***Rhododendron Hybrids***” co-authored with Homer Salley are our go-to references at shows and plant sales as well as our Sunday morning-coffee reading.

Harold says, "I have been around the Genus Rhododendron for more than 60 years...and have introduced many rhododendrons and azaleas to the trade." From 1954, as a young lad, to 1972 Harold worked with his dad, first selling a few rhodos on the side and later as a full-on nursery. Since 1972, when his dad died, Harold has made it his business.

This year he will begin a new venture at Greer Gardens in Eugene, Oregon, by converting part of his 14 acre nursery into a planned community development he calls “an up-scale retirement village and retirement arboretum (for people and plants).” Harold with his wife Nancy will still live on the property and sell some plants.

Harold is a renowned international speaker, well known for his superb photograph and his informative and entertaining programs. His topic for our meeting will be ***Rhododendron Diversity***. Be assured that when the lights go out YOU will not go to sleep.



Harold Greer, Photo by Don Hyatt

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.

OK Rhody Aficionados! Here is your chance to help the Chapter with your valued Public Service at the **2015 Rhody Show and Plant Sale**. The sign up sheet will be at the **February 26th meeting** to get in front of the line and pick your favorite time and service choice. On **Friday, April 24th we set up with the show following on the 25th and 26th**. We need help to unload and setup the display shelves, fill water bottles, place the 400 plus trusses, help sell plants and be friendly with the visitors. After setup on **Friday MEMBERS get the first choice of all the wonderful plants that Terry Henderson of Log Cabin Nursery will be supplying to the Show Sale**. It a fun time of fellowship and public service that helps the Community make this event successful. See you at the next meeting!. *Mary Marking*



WORD FOR THE MONTH: ADRESSED

By, Bruce Palmer

This month's word is **ADRESSED**. It's from the Latin *ad*, to, and *pressare*, to press. There's no particular reason to use addressed this month except that I put a leaf from the evergreen azalea *Rhododendron* 'Gay Paree' under the microscope recently and saw the adpressed hairs. We discussed this word eight years ago, but it bears repeating after this amount of time.

There is no single sure-fire way to tell azaleas from rhododendrons, but one way to tell most azaleas from other rhododendrons is that nearly (notice the use of nearly) all azaleas have adpressed hairs on their leaves. That means that the hairs present on the leaves are bent over and pressed tightly against the leaf surfaces. That can be seen without a microscope but the accompanying microphoto shows those hairs clearly. The leaf in the accompanying photo is from *R.* 'Gay Paree', one of the Indica group of azaleas in the subgenus *Tsutsusi*, the evergreen azaleas so familiar to us in the florist shops. *Tsutsusi* azaleas were first bred by the Japanese several centuries ago but the Indica group was first produced in about 1840 in Europe for sale as house plants. There are now several different *Tsutsusi*-derived groups in existence, but Indica hybrids were first on the market. In our mild climate we can put the potted "hot house" azaleas we received for Valentine's Day in the ground when they finish blooming and they will reward us again next year. They are tender, though, and won't survive well outside farther north.

Hairs on leaves are grouped with other surface features under the term trichome (Greek, *trichos*, hair). The dense matted hairs on the undersides of many of our rhododendrons called indumentum as well as scales on lepidote rhododendrons are trichomes. Trichomes are used for various purposes by plants, such as protection from heat and predation. One of the more interesting groups of trichomes, not found on rhododendron leaves, are the vesicles (Latin, *vesicula*, a bladder). Vesicles are tiny bubbles on leaf surfaces that contain volatile compounds we take advantage of in cooking, aroma therapy and perfumes. The second microphoto shows the underside of a sage leaf. The small white bubbles contain the aromatic seasoning we put in our sage dressing last Thanksgiving.

Adressed is a scientific term but we might say that most of us are addressed to the Rhododendron Society. We are tightly connected to the group, have been for some time and attend meetings regularly. None of our chapter members can claim to be as addressed to the American Rhododendron Society as our speaker this month, former ARS President Harold Greer. Harold more or less grew up with the organization and is one of our gurus. He always presents a great program, humorous, interesting and educational.



Plant of the Month *Rhododendron* 'Denali'

This delightful rhododendron hybrid was created by Jim Elliott, of Astoria, Oregon, and registered in 1987. This cultivar is a hybrid between *R.* 'Vanessa Pastel' and *R.* 'Pink Walloper'. The excellent foliage of *R.* 'Pink Walloper' can be seen in the character and leaves of *R.* 'Denali', making it one of the most handsome of rhododendrons. The plant grows wider than tall, and has lovely rose-pink flowers that shade darker on the edges, giving them a translucent glow. Here is a plant that holds its foliage, making it full and lush all the way to the ground. *R.* 'Denali' grows just fine in full sun, but will have bigger and darker leaves

in a little shade. In full shade the plant will still bloom, but not as well as in full light.

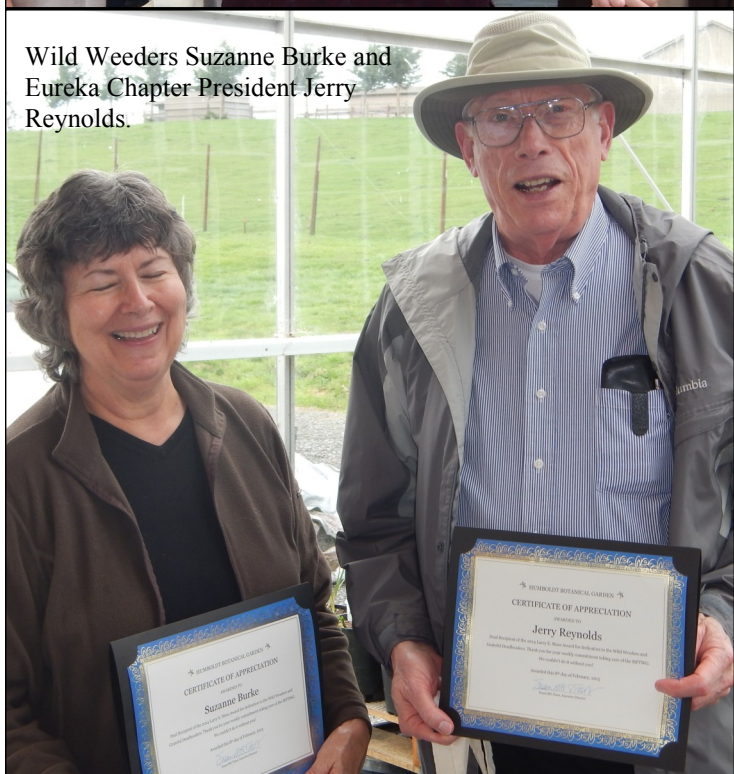
Here is a sampling of the 53 rhododendrons and one azalea which Catherine Weeks registered during her career as a hybridizer. The date is the date of registration.

- (r) **'Alissa Charlene'** cv. Elepidote rhododendron : 'Emily Allison' (s) × a yellow-flowered *decorum* (1995).
- (r) **'Andrea Marie'** cv. Elepidote rhododendron : 'Mrs. Horace Fogg' (s) × Diva Group × yellow-flowered *decorum* (1996).
- (r) **'Angela'** cv. Elepidote rhododendron : 'Crest' (s) × 'Naomi Nautilus' (1996).
- (r) **'Angel Wings'** cv. Elepidote rhododendron : 'Loderi Pink Diamond' (s) × Polar Bear Group (1991).
- (r) **'April Sunset'** cv. Elepidote rhododendron : 'Apricot Nectar' × 'Lem's Cameo' (s) × 'Lem's Cameo' (2007).
- (r) **'Arthur Charles'** cv. Elepidote rhododendron : 'Sir Charles Lemon' (s) × 'Gill's Crimson' (1992).
- (r) **'Ashley Catherine'** cv. Elepidote rhododendron : (*uvariifolium* × Romany Chal Group) × 'Hotei' (s) × *uvariifolium* × Romany Chal Group (2001).
- (r) **'Banana Pudding'** cv. Elepidote rhododendron : 'Mavis Davis' (s) × 'Second Honeymoon' (2014).
- (r) **'Bronzed Beauty'** cv. Elepidote rhododendron : un-named Lem hybrid (s) × *falconeri* subsp. *Eximium* (2000).
- (r) **'Carley Ann'** cv. Elepidote rhododendron : 'Mavis Davis' (s) × 'Evening Glow' (2014).r)
- 'Catherine's Coral Delight'** cv. Elepidote rhododendron : 'Raspberry Swirl' (s) × 'Lem's Cameo' (2007).
- (r) **'Catherine's Cutie Pie'** cv. Elepidote rhododendron : 'Sierra Sunrise' (s) × 'Lori Eichelser' (2007).
- (r) **'Catherine's Lea Ann'** cv. Elepidote rhododendron : 'Bonita' (s) × Angelo Group (2002).

- (r) **'Catherine's Lemon Meringue'** cv. Elepidote rhododendron : 'Lemonade' (s) × 'Lem's Cameo' (2008).
- (r) **'Catherine's Orange Bells'** cv. Elepidote rhododendron : 'Evening Glow' (s) × 'Cup o' Gold' (2004).
- (r) **'Catherine's Princess Di'** cv. Elepidote rhododendron : 'Exotic' (s) × 'Lem's Cameo' (2014).
- (r) **'Catherine's Spanish Dancer'** cv. Elepidote rhododendron : 'Naselle' (s) × 'Mavis Davis' (2014).
- (r) **'Cherry Surprise'** cv. Elepidote rhododendron : 'Exbury Calstocker' (s) × 'Rubicon' (2008).
- (r) **'Cindy Ann'** cv. Elepidote rhododendron : *decorum* (yellow-fld selection) (s) × 'Mrs Horace Fogg' × 'Diva' (1992)
- (r) **'Cosmic Drops'** cv. Elepidote rhododendron : 'Nancy Evans' (s) × 'Lem's Cameo' (2008).
- (r) **'Cougar'** cv. Elepidote rhododendron : seedling from open-pollinated 'Loderi King George' (1983).
- (r) **'Danny Boy'** cv. Elepidote rhododendron : 'Sir Charles Lemon' (s) × 'Gill's Crimson' (1998).
- (a) **'Devil's Cloak'** cv. Deciduous azalea : parentage unknown (1995).
- (r) **'Dixie Belle'** cv. Elepidote rhododendron : 'Brandt's Tropicana' (s) × 'Apricot Fantasy' (2004).
- (r) **'Easter Glory'** cv. Elepidote rhododendron : un-named hybrid of unknown parentage (s) × *falconeri* subsp. *Eximium* (1998).
- (r) **'Florence Thelus Philips'** cv. Elepidote rhododendron : 'Loderi Pink Diamond' (s) × Polar Bear Group (2001).
- (r) **'Gingerine'** cv. Elepidote rhododendron : 'Apricot Fantasy' (s) × 'Brandt's Tropicana' (2005).



Left to right, Executive Director Susan Tissot, Honoree Bruce Palmer and Volunteer Coordinator Ashley Mobley



Wild Weeders Suzanne Burke and Eureka Chapter President Jerry Reynolds.

Eureka Chapter Members Earn Recognition at Humboldt Botanical Gardens

On February 8, 2014 Humboldt Botanical Garden held its annual Volunteer Picnic in the greenhouse. Several members of the Eureka Chapter were honored for their outstanding contributions to the care and maintenance of the garden, gate duty, construction, propagation team (Green Team), Moss Family Temperate Woodland Garden (Wild Weeders and Grateful Deadheaders), working with the Sherriff's Work Alternative crew, bench maintenance, Rose Garden, Heather Garden and Native Plant Garden. In all 22 Eureka Chapter members dedicated 1485 hours in 2014. Six members, **George and Kathy Burtchett, Norma Goerlitz, Richard and Paula Grabowski and Jerry Reynolds**, spent over 50 hours each volunteering. Four members, **Ellen Gill, Bruce Palmer, Tim and June Walsh**, spent more than 100 hours each volunteering.

The Humboldt Botanical Garden Irene Van Natter Award is given to an individual for long time volunteer service to the Garden. This year's Irene Van Natter Award goes to **Bruce Palmer** for working 25 Sundays as Gate Host in

2014. He worked 106.5 hours in 2014. Bruce is HBG's most reliable Gate Host! HBG can count on Bruce every other Sunday of the year. This consistent commitment and willingness to give up his Sundays illustrates the dedication and ownership Bruce has in the HBG. ***The Humboldt Botanical Garden Larry E. Moss Award*** is an award to recognize volunteers with long term service to the Garden. This year we have two Recipients: **Jerry Reynolds** and **Suzanne Burke** for their dedication as Wild Weeders and Grateful Deadheaders. Jerry worked 65.75 hours in 2014 and Suzanne worked 37.5 hours. Many of our visitors to the Moss Family Temperate Woodland Garden comment on how beautiful a 'rhododendron' garden can be even when not in full bloom. Much of that beauty is thanks to a couple of dedicated Wild Weeders and Grateful Deadheaders! Rain or shine the Suzanne Burke and Jerry Reynolds, the most dedicated Wild Weeders and Grateful Deadheaders, join June and Tim Walsh at 10 AM every Tuesday.

Make a difference in the Garden...Come Volunteer!



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. Rhodyhos-tel@suddenlink.net Membership information and applications are also available from Ellen Gill Htg1anderg@suddenlink.net 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

February 26, 2015; Harold Greer, the King of Rhodos (ARS Gold Medalist and Past President of ARS) will talk about, well... Rhododendrons!

March 26, 2015; Tim Walsh (ARS Silver Medalist, ARS District 5 Director) will talk about the '*WEEDs*' of Humboldt, the *Maddenii* Rhododendrons.

April 23, 2015; Mike Stewart (ARS Gold Medalist and Past President of ARS) will talk about Plant Explorers and the plants they introduced into our gardens. Mike's programs are always a hot ticket!

May 21, 2015; will be our ever popular and fun in-house Mini-Show...you be the judge, win cash prizes.

June 7, 2015; Member garden tour and picnic.

Put these dates on your calendar now so you won't miss any of these great programs. Watch for the Eureka Chapter Newsletter for more info.

Start Grooming your Bloomers NOW for the Show April 24 to 26

Save a Few \$\$\$ For the MEMBER ONLY Plant Sale April 24

NOT a MEMBER Yet? Membership Queen Ellen Gill

Htg1anderg@suddenlink.net will be happy to help you become a member.

Eureka Chapter Officers and Board Members

For board member contact information or if you are interested in attending a board meeting, call or email June Walsh 707-443-0604