

AMERICAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

## Eureka Chapter

*The next meeting  
Thursday May 28th, 6:00 p.m.  
Woman's Club  
1531 J Street  
Eureka, California*

*Garden Tour and Picnic  
Sunday June 7th  
See info on  
Page 7*



Eureka Chapter  
American Rhododendron Society

Rhododendrons  
in the Redwoods

**May and June  
2015  
Mini Show and  
Garden Tour  
Edition**

**Members' Mini Show  
*Let us See Your  
Bloomers!***

### ***SHOW US YOUR BLOOMERS***

***Eureka Chapter Mini-Show and Potluck Party  
Thursday, May 28th at 6:00 p.m.***

***The Thursday May 22nd meeting of the Eureka Chapter will be the annual Mini-Show. YOU get to be the judges! For all the efforts you put into cutting and grooming your entries you will be rewarded with Potluck!***

***Bring your favorite main dish, side dish, salads and desserts, to share with your fellow members. The meeting will start at 6:00 so there will be time to fill out the entry tags for your 'Bloomers' and to place them on the show tables. Everything will be provided, all you need to do is bring your flowers, your sense of humor, your potluck dish and a good appetite.***

***There will be a Judging Rhodo 101 show-and-tell explaining what to look for in blue ribbon winners as you select your favorite entries. The prizes are \$100 for the Blue Ribbon winner selected as Best of Show and \$25 for all other Blue Ribbon winners, so it is well worth scouring your garden for a flower for one each of the 9 classes. See page 2 for rules and classes.***

*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.*

## Eureka Chapter Mini-show Rules

Show Date: Thursday, May 22nd

This mini-show takes place at the May 22nd meeting. Entries are limited to members (Life, Regular, Associate, etc.) of the American Rhododendron Society's Eureka Chapter.

All exhibits must have been in the member's garden for at least six months before the show.

Members are limited to **one entry in each class**. Entries must be rhododendron trusses. No sprays or hammerheads will be judged. There is no class for azaleas.

Entries are based largely on color, but members are encouraged to include the name of the species or hybrid on the entry card for the benefit of other members. Trusses may be groomed and prepared according to the rules for the regular Eureka Chapter Truss Show and Plant Sale.

Classes shall consist of the following:

Class 1: Lepidote Rhododendron Species, regardless of color. (These include the Maddenii and most small-leaved rhododendrons.)

Class 2: Elepidote Rhododendron Species, regardless of color.

Class 3: Hybrid Rhododendrons, Red.

Class 4: Hybrid Rhododendrons, Pink.

Class 5: Hybrid Rhododendrons, White.

Class 6: Hybrid Rhododendrons, Purple, lavender or blue.

Class 7: Hybrid Rhododendrons, Yellow, orange or apricot.

Class 8: Hybrid Rhododendrons, Bicolor.

Class 9: Any Rhododendron truss entered for fragrance.

Judging shall be done by the members and guests attending the show. Each member and guest shall receive a ballot and may vote for one truss in each class by writing the entry-tag number on the ballot. Ties shall be broken by a member randomly selected by the show chair to cast a tie-breaking vote.

Once a winner has been selected in each class, members and guests will vote for the Best of Show on the Best of Show Ballot from among the first-place winners in each class.

**Awards: The Best of Show entry shall receive \$100; all other blue-ribbon winners shall receive \$25 each.** *Photos, 1 Judges make their choices and Last year's mini show winners, Tim Walsh, Carol Ollivier, Don Wallace and Dennis McKiver.*





## American Rhododendron Society Awards Bruce Palmer the Gold Medal



On May 9, 2015 in Sidney, British Columbia, Canada Eureka Chapter Past President Bruce Palmer was honored with the highest award of the American Rhododendron Society; the Gold Medal! The citation was read by ARS President Bob MacIntyre (*at left with Bruce Palmer and Tim Walsh*) :

**“We have all enjoyed reading the *Word* column in the *Journal of the American Rhododendron Society* and have become more familiar with the bi-**

**ology of Rhododendrons. The scope of the *Word* is international in reach as the *Journal* goes to members worldwide and is now available through the web.**

**Bruce has written grant applications specific to Rhododendrons and educating the public about Rhododendrons. Grants have been awarded to purchase Rhododendrons and companion plants from the Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden, for signs and brochures and a modern labeling machine and supplies for creating identifying plaques in Humboldt Botanical Garden’s Temperate Woodland Garden.**

**For these significant and lasting contributions the American Rhododendron Society is proud to award the Gold Medal to Bruce Palmer.”**

He was still smiling late into the night. Pictured below are fellow Eureka Chapter members who basked in his glow, from left to right, June Walsh, Nelda Palmer, David Anderson, Bruce Palmer, Tim Walsh, George and Kathy Burtchett and Paul Anderson, present but camera shy, were Nan Ray and Dee Daneri. *Photos courtesy of Glen Jamieson*





The American Rhododendron Society  
Outstanding Achievement Award

Presented to the

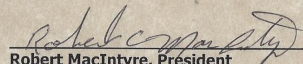
**EUREKA CHAPTER**

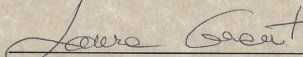
In keeping with its commitment to the American Rhododendron Society, the EUREKA CHAPTER has demonstrated the spirit of teamwork and dedication by working toward membership retention and development during the period from January 1<sup>st</sup> 2014 to Dec 31<sup>st</sup> 2014.

Dissemination of information on rhododendrons and azaleas, coupled with the promotion of interest in the genus Rhododendron, comprise the major part of the mission of the Society. The EUREKA CHAPTER has identified itself as an outstanding participant in the accomplishment of this goal.

Presented at Sidney, BC, Canada, May 9th, 2015.



  
Robert MacIntyre, President

  
Laura Grant, Executive Director

On May 9, 2015 in Sidney, British Columbia, Canada the Eureka Chapter was honored with an Outstanding Achievement Award! The citation reads;

*“In keeping with its commitment to the American Rhododendron Society, the Eureka Chapter has demonstrated the spirit of teamwork and dedication by working toward membership retention and development during the period January 2014 to December 2014.*

*Dissemination of information on rhododendrons and azaleas, coupled with the promotion of interest in the Genus Rhododendron, comprise the major part of the mission of the Society. The Eureka Chapter has identified itself as an outstanding participant in the accomplishment of this goal.”*

Although June Walsh received the award on behalf of the Eureka Chapter, the entire membership of the chapter is to be commended with making the Eureka Chapter meaningful to the general gardening community. Also to be recognized are the membership chairs over the last several years, **Trish Ortiz**, **Max Abrahamsen** and current Chair **Ellen Gill**. They have worked to keep members informed, included and welcomed through the telephone tree and membership renewal notices. And greeting at the meeting door.



## Big Thank You from Mary Marking

A big **thank you** to all Chapter members who participated in the Annual Rhododendron Show and Plant Sale. We had over 450 entries this year, even with the unusual weather. The show is always a big success because of Chapter members who pitch in and help. A special thank you to **Diane Larkin**, volunteer coordinator, **Nelda Palmer**, judging, **Margaret Cole**, arrangements coordinator and **Ellie Gayner**, publicity. Without these

helping hands, the show would have not run as smoothly as it did. Now it is time to enjoy the Rhodies in our yards and start fertilizing and dead heading for next year. *Photo is R. 'Southern Cloud' the Best of Show from Humboldt Botanical Garden entered by Ellen Gill*



## WORD OF THE MONTH – ANTHOCYANIN

*By, Bruce Palmer, American Rhododendron Society Gold Medal Recipient*

Our Annual flower show is over and our in-house show is coming up. It seems appropriate to talk about some of the pigments in flowers that give them their colors. I chose **ANTHOCYANIN** (Greek: *anthos*, flower, and *kyanos*, blue). The anthocyanins are the major pigments that give the various shades of color in our rhodie blossoms from deep reds through blues. The specific shade of color is determined by what combinations of hydrogen, oxygen and carbon are attached at specific locations around the basic molecule. Different combinations reflect certain wavelengths of light differently. The slightly different molecules have typically been named because of the flower colors of the plants from which they were first extracted. Thus we have such names as Delphinidin, Pelargonidin, Peonidin, Petunidin and Rosinidin.

We have hybridized rhododendrons to yield patterns and color combinations that are pleasing and often unusual, but the parent species have the color patterns in specific locations for a reason unrelated to humans. The lines, splotches and deep colored centers, called nectar guides, are there to attract pollinators. The nectar guides reflect ultraviolet light which insects can see but humans cannot. The reflection of ultraviolet light by anthocyanins makes them useful to plants in locations other than the flowers. Tomato and eggplant fruits have anthocyanins in their skins to protect them from damage by sunlight. Even more importantly, many plants have leaves and sometimes stems that are filled with anthocyanins when they first appear. The red color protects the tender tissues as they toughen up. The Rhododendron relative Pieris is a good example in our yards right now. The red clusters of new Pieris leaves rival some of our rhodies. Variations in anthocyanin color are influenced by acidity. Anthocyanins from red cabbage are often used as an acid/alkaline indicator. In solution the anthocyanin color changes from red at the acidic end to blue if the solution is alkaline. The same holds for some flowers. Hydrangea is a good example in our gardens.

Leaves and other plant parts contain colored other pigments in addition to anthocyanins. Deciduous plants recycle their chlorophyll as the days get shorter and colder. As the chlorophyll disappears the pigments that helped chlorophyll capture light remain behind. They give us most of the yellow and orange leaf colors in the fall. Some plants, though, have red leaves in the fall. The red is from anthocyanins, produced in the autumn to ward off damage from the remaining sunlight as the plant is reclaiming the last remnants of useful molecules and sending them to the roots for winter storage.

Anthocyanins and other colored pigments are used in flowers in ways other than ultraviolet nectar guides. Flowers pollinated by bees and wasps tend to be various shades of yellow and blue. Butterfly flowers tend toward red and orange. Moth flowers are stark white and open at night. Fly flowers are mottled, resembling rotting meat; they also smell bad. Some orchids have patterns that resemble wasps and sway in the wind; they are called pseudo-antagonists because they cause real wasps to attack, pollinating the flowers in the process. Orchids called pseudo-copulators have flower patterns resembling female wasps. The male wasps see the patterns and attempt to mate with the flowers, pollinating them in the process.

Anthocyanins, those pigments that give our rhodie flowers most of their beautiful colors and yield many useful products such as acid indicators and food coloring, are quite important. Let's enjoy them as we bring our flowers to the in-house show, judge them and have a good time.

*Photo Left; R. 'Brown Eyes', showing how hybridization can increase nectar guides to produce more beautiful flowers. Photo Right: R. 'Black Sport', showing how hybridization can intensify the amounts of anthocyanins to produce darker colors. Photos by Bruce Palmer*



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## TROPHY AWARDS 2015

EUREKA

BEST TRUSS OF SHOW	Humboldt Botanical Garden/ELLEN GILL
JUDGES' SPECIAL AWARD	DON WALLACE
PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARD	DON WALLACE
BEST FLORAL ARRANGEMENT	MARGARET COLE
BEST PHOTOGRAPHIC DISPLAY	B & N PALMER
BEST FRAGRANT RHODO. TRUSS	CAROL OLLIVIER
BEST PINK HYBRID RHODO. TRUSS	PAT CHANEY
BEST RED HYBRID RHODO. TRUSS	GAIL LEDBETTER
BEST YELLOW RHODO. TRUSS	DON WALLACE
BEST WHITE HYBRID RHODO. TRUSS	HBCGF/ELLEN GILL
BEST LAVENDER HYBRID TRUSS	J & T ORTIZ
BEST DWARF RHODO. TRUSS	B & N PALMER
BEST SPECIES TRUSS	DON WALLACE
BEST HALFDAN LEM HYBRID TRUSS	Eliminated
BEST LODERI KING GEORGE TRUSS	VIVIAN ZIEGLER
BEST MADDENII TRUSS	D & V McKIVER
BEST "NAOMI" TRUSS OR SPRAY	Eliminated
BEST AZALEA SPRAY	R & P GRABOWSKI
BEST HYBRID RHODO. SPRAY	D & V McKIVER
BEST RHODODENDRON PLANT	D & V McKIVER
BEST AZALEA PLANT	D & V McKIVER
SWEEPSTAKES AWARD	Eliminated
BEST BICOLOR TRUSS	DON WALLACE





**R. 'Southern Cloud'**

## **Plant of the Month R. 'Southern Cloud'.**

From "down under" somewhere in Australia, this spectacular R. nuttallii hybrid will "knock your socks off" as Tim Walsh would say. Most of the R. nuttallii x R. lindleyi hybrids like 'Mi Amor', 'Patricia Marie', or 'Kallista' have only 5-6 flowers per cluster, but 'Southern Cloud' will often have 12. I have even counted 14 one time. More common on this plant is 7-9 flowers per truss. The leaves are a lighter green and thinner than the other hybrids, taking after the R. lindleyi parent. The growth habit is not much different than the other hybrids, and you can expect to have a plant 6 ft tall and just as wide after 10 years. I would encourage cutting a few bouquets dur-

ing the bloom time, as this is a way of doing a bit of pruning, encouraging new shoots to grow, making a more compact and bushy plant. The late Bob Bodie who owned Descanso Gardens in Fort Bragg used to grow these hybrids in large containers, and he would prune them hard for 3-4 years to achieve a spectacular plant that was more buds than leaves. You can imagine the results when they bloomed. "A pile of white flowers", was one comment. So, don't be afraid to chop on your nuttallii hybrids...you will end up with much better plants if you do. *Editor's note, this plant this year's Best of Show at the April Rhododendron Show and Sale. It is still in bloom in The Moss Family Temperate Woodland Garden at Humboldt Botanical Garden.*

## **Sunday June 7th Garden Tour and Picnic**

Bring your **picnic/potluck lunch** items and **CARPOOL** if you can!

Tour begins at **10:00 a.m** at Steve Durham's, **2351 North Bank Road, McKinleyville**. Going North of Arcata on Highway 101 North take North Bank Road (CA 200) go about 1/2 mile, watch for balloon on the left, go up the steep driveway, watch for Steve to direct you to parking. The gardens are around two houses and includes a trail to the Azalea Reserve.

At **10:45** we will go to Singing Tree Garden Nursery **5225 Dows Prairie Road McKinleyville** Return to Highway 101 North, go about 7 miles to **Exit 725, Crannell Road**, keep right onto **Dows Prairie Road**, go about 1 mile, Singing Tree Gardens is on your left. **PLANTS** will be available to purchase.

At **11:45** we will go to Ken and Barb Magnuson's garden at **2740 Kelly Street, McKinleyville**. Back track to Highway 101 toward Eureka. Go about 4 miles to **Murray Road (Exit 721)** turn right on Murray Road at the end of Murray is Kelly, turn Left. 2740 is on the right.

At **1:00 p.m.** we will go to Tom and Mary Marking's at **1456 Whitmire Ave McKinleyville** for garden and grub. Return to Highway 101 going toward Eureka for about 1 mile to **School Road (Exit 719)**. Turn right onto **School Road**, take the 2nd left onto **Whitmire** (unpaved), the Markings are on the right.

Picnic/Potluck, plates, utensils, napkins, cups will be provided by the Chapter, you supply the food and drink and good humor! If you bring your dog please do not bring your dog into the



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. Rhodyhose-tel@suddenlink.net Membership information and applications 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

**May 28, 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.

**July and August,** save your bath water for your rhodos, weed, dream of fall rain, dance.

**September 24, 2015** First season meeting will be a potluck.

**October 22, 2015,** To be announced

**November,** Eat Turkey, Kiss your Family, be Thankful

**December 3, 2015** Holiday Potluck

**January 28 2016** To be announced

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.

## Nominations for Eureka Chapter Officers and Board Members September 2015 to June 2016

The Eureka Chapter will elect board members at the May 28th meeting. The below slate will be up for your vote in addition to any nominations from the floor.

President: Jerry Reynolds

Vice President: Ellie Gayner

Secretary: Gail Ledbetter

Treasurer: Tim Walsh

Programs: Don Wallace

Flower Show: Tom & Mary Marking

Newsletter: June Walsh

Membership: Ellen Gill

In-House Show: Margaret Cole

Past President: Bruce Palmer

At-Large: Nelda Palmer

Diane Larkin