

## AMERICAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

# Eureka Chapter

### *The next meeting*

**Thurs. September 24, 6:00 p.m.**

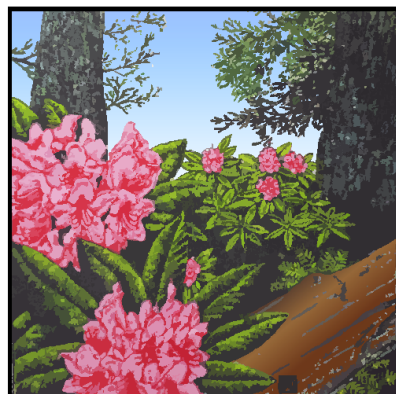
*Woman's Club*

*1531 J Street*

*Eureka, California*

### **POTLUCK**

**Bring your favorite POTLUCK dish to share. Chapter will provide coffee, tea, utensils, plates and napkins. BYOB if you like.**



Eureka Chapter  
American Rhododendron Society

Rhododendrons  
in the Redwoods

## September 2015

## Frank Kingdon-Ward: Connoisseur Plant Collector

*The Eureka Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society will meet on Thursday, **September 24, 2015**. The meeting and program will be held at the Eureka Woman's Club 1531 J Street in Eureka. Potluck will begin at 6:00, the program will begin at 7:00 P.M.*

Elaine Sedlack is past President and Program Chairperson of the California Chapter of American Rhododendron Society. Other memberships include the Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden, The Maple Society, the International Dendrology Society, the Herb Society of America, and the Heritage Roses Group. She has recently retired from the UC Botanical Garden at Berkeley, where as horticulturist she maintained the Asian collection since 1984. She has recently relocated to Eugene Oregon.

### **Elaine's program is titled; Frank Kingdon-Ward: Connoisseur Plant Collector**

Renowned plantsman Frank Kingdon-Ward (November 6, 1885 – April 8, 1958) spent the longest time in the field as any of the British collectors from Victorian times, working almost 50 years until two years before his death. He mostly collected in solitude, and in the most daunting, cold and wet terrain in southeast Tibet, Burma and Assam, India; he was indefatigable. He had a remarkable memory, a discerning eye and appreciation for the garden value of a new introduction, including many Rhododendrons, the most famous of which is the charming *Rhododendron wardii*. He also discovered and introduced many choice rock garden plants, some also being named for him. His first love, though, was geography, so it is not surprising that it was Kingdon-Ward who finally solved the "Riddle of the Tsangpo Gorge". This presentation will summarize his notable plant introductions and honor his significant contribution to horticulture. Elaine's programs are always well researched with facts that bring the fascinating people who introduced our Rhododendrons and other choice plants into focus. There will be plenty of pretty pictures.



Elaine Sedlack with Tim Walsh at UC Berkeley Botanical Garden, Asia Section

*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.*

**Plant of the Month: *Rhododendron* 'Mindy's Love'**

R. 'Mindy's Love'



Jim Barlup of Bellevue, Washington hit the jackpot when he made this cross. It is *Rhododendron* 'Nancy Evans' x *Rhododendron* 'Lionel's Triumph'. Both parents have rich yellow flowers with nice foliage. One parent, *Rhododendron* 'Lionel's Triumph', has the species *Rhododendron lacteum* in its parentage. *Rhododendron lacteum* has rich yellow flowers and attractive dark-green oval leaves. I can see that *Rhododendron lacteum* is the most dominate genetically as *Rhododendron* 'Mindy's Love' looks very much like this species. The flowers are big and full and of very thick substance, adding to its list of attributes. The plant is a bit shy flowering, taking quite a few years to flower nicely, but is well worth the wait. Also, the plant is somewhat hard to root, so having many is never an actuality. I may not have many to sell at the nursery this year, so the winner of this plant will be getting something special. When you see a mature plant of *Rhododendron* 'Mindy's Love' in full bloom, you will never forget it.

*By Don Wallace*

**September is Membership Renewal time!**  
**What a great time to *bring a new friend or family member* to a meeting and *get a free plant*. If your friend or family *becomes a member*, they too *will get a free plant*!**  
***All new members get a free plant.***

**A friendship can weather most things and thrive in thin soil; but it needs a little mulch of letters and phone calls and small, silly presents every so often- just to save it from drying out completely".**

**Pam Brown**



Tim Walsh's Vireya Rhodo



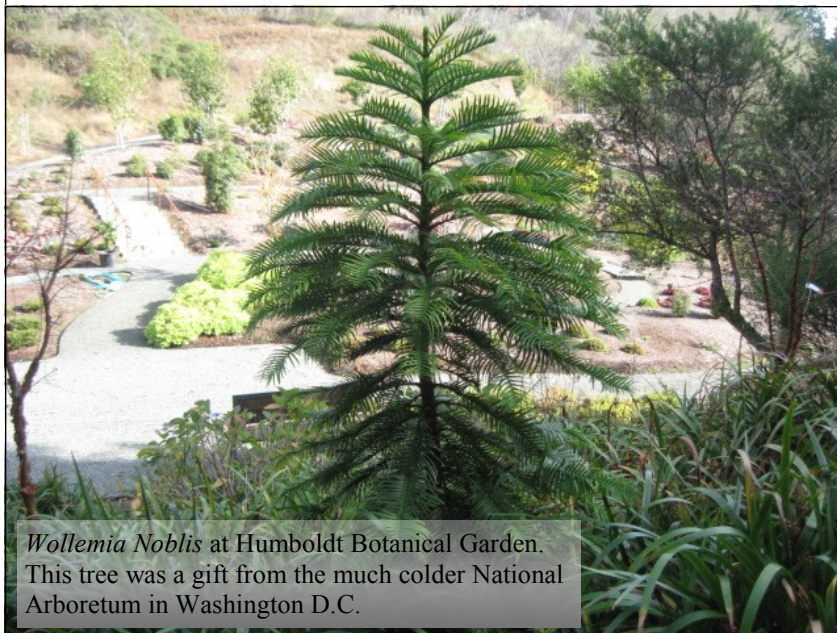
## WORD OF THE MONTH

By Bruce Palmer

This month's word is "**Deciduous**". The word is from the Latin *desidere*, to drop off. Those of us who live in close proximity to the redwoods are going through the annual "redwood blizzard" as we speak, so this word seems appropriate to the time. Between Labor Day and Thanksgiving the redwoods lose their newest branchlets and our roofs and yards are covered with a brown blanket. All shrubs and trees lose leaves that become less efficient with age, as the rhododendrons are doing now. In general, though, we group perennial plants into those that keep their leaves throughout the year (evergreen) and those that lose them part of the year (deciduous). Most rhododendrons are evergreen (including our native *Rhododendron macrophyllum*). The group of azaleas (in subgenus *Pentanthera*) that we are most familiar with in our yards (and our native *Rhododendron occidentale*) are deciduous.

Deciduous trees are generally broadleaved and lose their leaves in response to the onset of shorter days. They can't make enough food for the leaves to be economical, so they withdraw the usable nutrients from the leaves, store them in the stems and roots, form an abscission layer (Latin *ascissere*, to cut off) at the base of each leaf to prevent leakage, let it drop off and wait for longer days in Spring to grow new leaves. In the process, many deciduous trees leave some pigments behind in the dying leaves to give us those impressive fall colors. Evergreen trees keep their leaves through more than one growing season and drop them whenever they become unproductive. We see evergreen leaves turning yellow and falling off at any time of year, though there is more leaf drop when the plants are stressed, such as in dry conditions and in the autumn. Evergreen trees tend to live in milder climates if they are broadleaved or have needles with a reduced surface area if they are conifers in colder climates.

There are lots of exceptions to both situations. The Southern Hemisphere conifers in the family *Araucariaceae* tend to have broad leaves, some resembling flowering plant leaves. Most of them don't live in climates with severe winters. The most common example locally is the Monkey Puzzle tree, *Araucaria araucana*. A rare example from this family, the Wollemi Pine, *Wollemia nobilis*, is growing in the Moss Family Temperate Woodland Garden at the Humboldt Botanical Garden. Some broadleaved trees living in areas that have a hot dry season lose their leaves at the onset of the drought. The examples that come to mind are two. One is the Coral Tree, *Erythrina*, a genus that is found all around the tropical Pacific shores and on most of the tropical Pacific islands. The endemic Hawaiian species, Wiliwili (*Erythrina sandwicensis*), looks like a skeleton all summer on the dry sides of the islands but springs to life and puts on a blanket of leaves when the rains come back. A second is closer to home, the California Buckeye, *Aesculus californica*. It's evergreen in gardens because of watering but in nature it loses its leaves during the dry summers.



*Wollemia Nobilis* at Humboldt Botanical Garden.  
This tree was a gift from the much colder National Arboretum in Washington D.C.

We usually say that conifers are evergreen. That's accurate, but there are exceptions. Larch, Bald Cypress and Dawn Redwood are deciduous conifers. Our Coast Redwoods (*Sequoia sempervirens*) fall into a category shared with a number of broadleaved trees sometimes called semi-deciduous. They put on a growth spurt with new leaves in spring, then lose part of the new growth as the daylength shortens in the fall so they don't have to support unproductive tissues all winter. Unfortunately for those of us who live among them, the redwoods bestow a gift of almost limitless cover on our roofs, plants and yards this time of year.



*Fall, leaves, fall; die, flowers, away;  
Lengthen night and shorten day;  
Every leaf speaks bliss to me,  
Fluttering from the autumn tree.*

–Emily Brontë (1818–48)



Eureka Chapter member **Dee Bilderback** passed away at her home in Elk River surrounded by her loving family in September at age 88. Dee's daughter Jo brought her to many meetings. Jo is one of 6 children Dee had. Dee volunteered at Easter Seals and was a Pink Lady at St. Joseph's Hospital.

Jo says, "Mom loved her 3 G's: Gardening. Gambling and Geese. She spent hours planting bulbs and caring for her 70+ rhododendrons. The last 4 years she made it out to the Aleutian Goose Fly-off at the National Wildlife Center. It was the only activity she would get up that early for."

You may send condolence messages to:

The Family of Wilma (Dee) Bilderback

7919 Valley Drive

Eureka, CA 95503-9611

Long time Eureka Chapter member **Molly Eggel** passed away in May at the age of 76. She was preceded in death by her husband Jim. For many years Jim and Molly were Show Chairs for our big spring Rhododendron Show and Plant Sale. She is survived by her children and grandchildren, among them former Eureka Chapter member Cindy White.

Molly had many, varied interests: porcelain painting, water color and oil painting, photography, gardening, jewelry making, rock hunting, cutting and carving. She belonged to Old Town Art Gallery, where her porcelain china has been featured. She was a member of the Eureka Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society and of the Heather Enthusiasts of the Redwood Empire.

*Editor's note: Several Chapter members have beautiful porcelain tea sets painted by Molly. Mine has azaleas. Her photography won many ribbons at our Rhododendron Shows.*

You may send condolence messages to:

The Family of Molly Eggel

PO Box 237

Samoa, CA 95564-9502



Eucriphia X 'Nymansensis' Moss Family Temperate Woodland Garden August and September bloom  
**Come see it NOW, before the bloom is off!**















































Eureka Chapter members gather for June Garden tour at Steve Durham's and Patricia Girczyc's back yard, June 2015

## Get your ARS Journal on line.

1. Access the ARS Office website: **www.arsoffice.org**
2. Click on the link that reads: [Journal American Rhododendron Society Electronic Edition](#)
3. If you already have a username and password, click on "login". If you do not have a username and password, click on "Register Now" and follow instructions for obtaining them.

(To register, you need to know your ARS membership number which is found on the address label of the Journal magazine or call June Walsh for your number.

**Max Abrahamsen is currently updating the Eureka Chapter Web site, we will let you know when it is ready for your browsing!**





















**HELP the ARS! Shop Amazon at the ARS Store**

Do you purchase books, fertilizer, cold weather gear, garden gloves, tools, patio umbrellas from **Amazon**?

Amazon will make a **contribution** to the **American Rhododendron Society** every time you make a purchase, if you log in using the link below!

Go To: [\*\*http://arsstore.org/\*\*](http://arsstore.org/)

You will see the Amazon box on the right, click on **Amazon Full Store**, and shop! Signing in to Amazon through the ARS link costs you nothing extra and makes a big difference for the American Rhododendron Society. Book mark [\*\*http://arsstore.org/\*\*](http://arsstore.org/) in your 'Favorites' so you don't forget the best way to get to AMAZON! This link even works if you are an AMAZON Prime user. With every purchase using this link Amazon will **donate 0.5%** of the price of eligible purchases to the American Rhododendron Society. **DO IT! And start shopping.**





The June Garden Tour ended with a potluck picnic in the back yard of Tom and Mary Marking



Another beautiful garden on tour.





*Eureka Chapter  
American Rhododendron Society  
Rhododendrons  
in the Redwoods*

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, or Rhodyhos-tel@suddenlink.net Membership information and applications are also available from Ellen Gill. Hgt1anderg@suddenlink.net

## Eureka Chapter

### Future Programs

**September 24, 2015 6:00 PM Potluck 7:00 Program, Elaine Sedlack, Frank Kingdon-Ward**

**October 22, 2015, Bruce Palmer, Plant Nutrition**

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

**December 3, 2015 Holiday Potluck, and Cuttings Workshop, Don Wallace**

**January 28, 2016, Paula Trinoskey, Fall Color in Japan**

**February 25, 2016, Dennis McKiver, Growing Show Quality Rhododendrons**

**March 24, 2016, Gisele Schoniger, Soils**

**April 28, 2016, To be announced**

**April 29 to May 1, 2016 Rhododendron Show and Plant Sale**

**May 26, 2016 IN-House Mini Show...win BIG BUCKS when you show us your bloomers**

**June 5, 2015, Member Garden Tour and Potluck 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.

### 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. The Eureka Chapter Board meets the **FIRST** Wednesday of the Month