

AMERICAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

Eureka Chapter

*The next meeting
Thursday May 26th, 6:00 p.m.
Woman's Club
1531 J Street
Eureka, California*

*Garden Tour and Picnic
Sunday June 5th
See info on
Page 6*



*Eureka Chapter
American Rhododendron Society*

*Rhododendrons
in the Redwoods*

**May and June
2016
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 26th at 6:00 p.m.***

The Thursday May 26th 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 26th

This mini-show takes place at the May 26th meeting. Entries are limited to those of 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.**

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



Plant of the Month:

***Rhododendron* 'Lady Alice Fitzwilliam'**

Photo and Article by Don Wallace

Hybridized and registered by Fisher, L. Son & Sibray in 1881. This very fragrant *Rhododendron maddenii* hybrid is a close second to the more well-known *R. 'Fragrantissimum'*, with similar foliage, more colorful flowers and much better growing habit. The pink and white flowers are similar to the hybrid *R. 'McNabii'*, and the fragrance is equally as potent, filling any yard with nutmeg perfume on warm days. The parents of this hybrid are *R. edgeworthii* x *R. formosum*, both of which are fragrant. This plant is tender to cold winter temperatures and may be killed below 23 degrees F. However, we rarely get this cold, so may not be an issue for us living in the coastal areas of Humboldt County.

As many of these fragrant varieties grow

epiphytically in boughs of trees, they need a coarse growing medium and excellent drainage. If grown in a container, they should be allowed to become a little pot-bound and they benefit from being very hard-pruned after flowering.

Editor's note: Tim and I visited the Garinish Island garden of Ilacullen in Bantry Bay, Ireland where we were lured to the garden surrounding the pool by the sweet scent of 'Lady Alice Fitzwilliam'. The plants were in large decorative pots that we were told were taken into a cool green house for the winter.

Do you have art, vases, handiwork that you would like to donate to the Eureka Chapter for the **Silent Auction to be held during the **International American Rhododendron Convention** to be held in Eureka **April 27 through 30, 2017**? Any garden subject is interesting to Rhodo-Geeks but Rhododendron objects and art are keenly collected. **Tom and Aileen Martin** have donated two over-the-fireplace-worthy prints of rhodos that will be featured as silent auction items. China featuring rhodos or other flowers are popular, as are hand made items. Call June for more information. 707-443-0604**

Funding Nearly Complete

The Eureka Chapter wishes to thank all who have contributed to the fund for a Plaque honoring **Jerry Reynolds** (1941—2015) to be placed in the Moss Family Temperate Woodland Garden of Humboldt Botanical Garden. Jerry spent many hours there most Tuesdays as a Wild Weeder and Grateful Deadheader. The plaque will be placed by a lepidote rhododendron (see the Word) of which Jerry took special care. Special thanks to:

Steve and Margaret Cole	Ann Seeman	Diane Larkin
George and Kathy Burtchett	Tony and Paula Luna	Steve Durham
Ellen Gill	Lee Astroino	Irene Hillstrand
Celeste Waddell	Robert Schorer	Carol Ollivier
Carla Peterson and Family	Don and Margaret Bollinger	Sean Sullivan
Tom and Aileen Martin	Lee of Etters (Ferndale Gallery)	Gail Ledbetter
Dorothy Dilling	Joe and Trish Ortiz	Gayle Teter
Laura Moore	Bruce and Nelda Palmer	Bill Troiano
		Tim and June Walsh

Big **Thank You** from Tom and Mary Marking

This year the Eureka Chapter Rhododendron Show and Sale was another great success. We had over 430 entries from 33 entrants. Miles Hall looked spectacular and the Bonsai Society's display was a great addition.

It was fairly easy to put on because of all the help from Chapter members. 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.

Again, thank you to everyone that came and helped out.

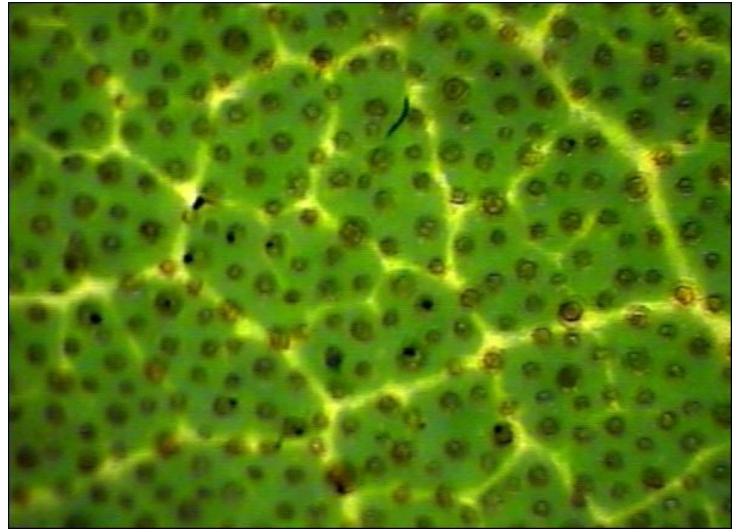
Photo is R. 'Southern Cloud' from Humboldt Botanical Garden by Ellen Gill



THE WORD: LEPIDOTE

By Bruce Palmer

The word is **lepidote**. It has been six years since **lepidote** appeared in the word of the month, so it's high time we reviewed it. You may have noticed in the flower show last month that **lepidote** and **elepidote** rhodies were placed in separate categories. Rhododendrons with leaf scales on the undersides, such as *R.* 'Alice Eastwood' shown at the right, are called **lepidote**. It's from the Greek *lepidos*, scale. Originally the term applied to the scales of snakes and fish. The prefix



R. 'Alice Eastwood' leaf underside, 20X

is used in a number of places in biology. Lepidoptera (scale wing), for example, is the order of insects to which butterflies and moths with their scaly wings belong. Lepidodendron (scale tree) is used by paleontologists to describe a long extinct group of large primitive trees whose poorly developed conifer-like leaves left scars on the fossil surfaces that resemble snake skin. The fossil scale marks were so distinctive that early collectors mistook Lepidodendron fossils for fossilized snakes. Lepidodendrons contributed heavily to the formation of the coal deposits in Pennsylvania and elsewhere.

Scales are one of many types of structures on the surfaces of leaves. They fall in a category collectively called trichomes (Greek, *trichos*, a hair). Trichomes come in various shapes and have a number of distinct functions. Many aromatic leaves such as rosemary, sage and geranium carry their scent inside swollen hairs that burst open to release the scent. Nettles have hairs containing an irritant. The trichomes that we rhododendron enthusiasts are most familiar with are those hairy leaf coverings we term indumentum (Latin: *indumentum*, a garment). Scales on **lepidote** rhododendrons are less conspicuous than indumentum and don't contribute a great deal to the appearance of the leaves. Their function is not known for certain, but they are important in classifying rhododendrons. Classification of the genus is the next best thing to a nightmare for taxonomists but the presence or absence of scales stands out as a distinct characteristic. The genes of **Lepidote** and **elepidote** rhododendrons, each category comprising roughly half of all rhododendron species, are sufficiently different that it is extremely difficult to hybridize between the groups. The seeds are different. The flowers open differently. Most of the hybrid rhodies in our gardens are **elepidotes**, but a large majority of all of the beautifully fragrant rhododendrons we grow in our benign coastal climate in northwestern California are **lepidotes**. In summary, **lepidote** rhododendrons are a distinct grouping from **elepidotes** and our gardens would be seriously impoverished without both of them. Let's appreciate them while we are out deadheading our plants this spring and add scales to the list of interesting rhododendron leaf features.



Eureka Chapter
American Rhododendron Society
in the Rhododendrons

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www.EurekaRhody.org
Eureka Chapter Newsletter is published monthly except during July, August and November. Submissions from members are encouraged and should be mailed to June Walsh, Newsletter Editor, 2050 Irving Drive, Eureka, CA 95503-7022. Or by email RhodyHostel@suddenlink.net Membership information and applications available from Ellen Gill. HigLander@suddenlink.net
Eureka Chapter is a member of the Humboldt Botanical Gardens Foundation, Eureka, CA and The Rhododendron Species Botanical, Federal Way, WA. Eureka Chapter is a chapter of the American Rhododendron Society a 501 (c) (3) charitable organization.

Future Programs

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.

* **Potluck Picnic– Garden Tour Sunday June 5th** *
* The Eureka Chapter will have its annual Member Garden tour at Humboldt Botanical *
* Garden. The date is **Sunday June 5th** which is a garden concert day. Eureka Rhody *
* President Ellie Gayner will be one of the performers. *
* **Garden opens at 10:00 AM** *
* **Garden Tour at 11:00 AM** *
* **Picnic and Concert at NOON** *
* This will be a potluck picnic so bring what you do best to share. We will set up tables *
* for the food and have plates and utensils. Members and guests are invited to bring *
* chairs or blankets to enjoy the food and music on the lawn. Eureka Rhody members *
* who are also HBG members will show their **HBG member card at the gate. Eureka** *
* **Rhody members** who are NOT HBG members will notify the gate that they are *
* **Eureka Rhody members** (this will be a great chance to become a member of HBG, *
* too). *
* **If you have any questions please call June 707-443-0604** *

Eureka Chapter Officers and Board Members
For board member contact information or if you are interested in attending a board meeting which are held the first Wednesday of the month at 7PM, call or email June Walsh 707-443-0604