AMERICAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

Eureka Chapter

The next meeting
Thursday October 27, 7:00 p.m.
Woman's Club
1531 J Street
Eureka, California

Pre-Meeting No Host Dinner ***5:15***
Roy's Club*, 2nd and D Streets*
Eureka, ***Call Nelda, 707-443-8049***
For a ***reservation*** *so there will be enough seating*

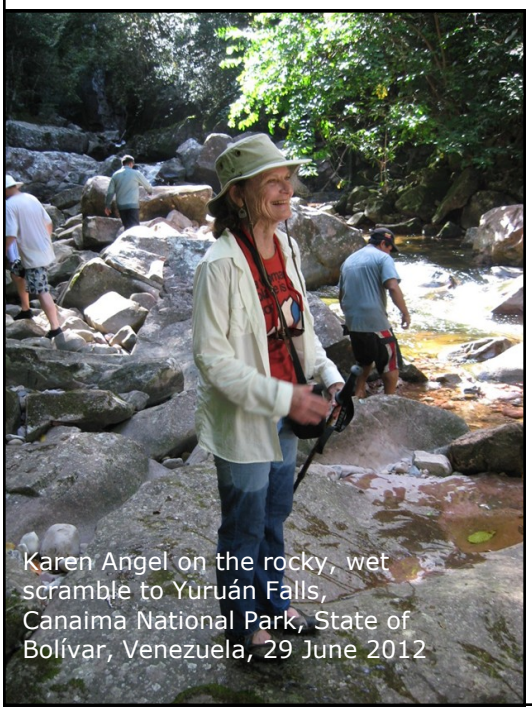
Eureka Chapter American Rhododendron Society — *Rhododendrons in the Redwoods*

October 2016 — Venezuelan Botanicals and Angel Falls

Eureka Chapter member Karen Angel is the featured speaker for the 7:00 PM, 27 October 2016 American Rhododendron Society meeting. The Eureka Chapter meets at the Woman's Club, 1531 J Street, in Eureka.

Angel's talk is titled "Venezuelan Botanicals and Angel Falls" with many of the photographs taken by members of the 2012 "Tribute to Jimmie Angel" expedition to Angel Falls. Although rhododendrons will not appear in the photographs, plants native to Venezuela and grown with rhododendrons in Humboldt County gardens will be presented.

Angel is the niece of the American aviator-explorer James "Jimmie Crawford Angel (1899-1956) for whom the world's tallest waterfall, Angel Falls in Venezuela, is named. During one of his many expeditions in la Gran Sabana [The Great Savannah] of southeastern Venezuela, he first saw the waterfall in November 1933 while flying solo in Churún Canyon; a giant cleft in the table top mountain named "Auyántepui" in the native Pemón language, from which the waterfall flows.



Karen Angel on the rocky, wet scramble to Yuruán Falls, Canaima National Park, State of Bolívar, Venezuela, 29 June 2012

The popular English translation for Auyántepui is Devil Mountain or House of the Devil. Auyántepui was a fearful place for the Pemón who believed it was inhabited by devils. It was not until 1949 that the Pemón made their first ventures into the heart of the mountain with American photo-journalist Ruth Robertson and guide Alexandro Laime. Robertson, a friend of Jimmie Angel, organized and led the first successful overland expedition to Angel Falls for the purpose of officially measuring the height of the waterfall. The waterfall measured 3,212 feet/980 meters tall. Her article and expedition photographs appeared in the November 1949 issue of ***The National Geographic Magazine.***

The waterfall was officially named Salto Angel (Angel Falls) in December 1939 by the Venezuelan

Angel Falls • Salto Angel • Churún Vena, planet Earth's tallest waterfall. Canaima National Park, State of Bolívar, Venezuela, 2 July 2012 (*photos provided by Karen Angel*

(*continued from page 1)* government in honor of Jimmie Angel's exploration of la Gran Sabana during the years 1933-1939. His ashes were scattered over the waterfall 2 July 1960. In 1962, most of la Gran Sabana became Venezuela's Canaima National Park, the sixth largest national park in the world.

Angel's talk will include native Venezuelan botanicals in Canaima National Park, botanicals used in ornamental horticulture, personal adornments, baskets, structures, and consumables.

As a sidelight, Angel will show botanical drawings from Pixar Animation Studio's 2009 Academy Award winning movie ***UP*** and the botanicals that were the models for the Pixar artists. Angel Falls was the model for ***UP's*** Paradise Falls as were the surrounding tepuis and flora.

Membership renewals are rolling in and so are **extra donations** for the **American Rhododendron Society's Endowment Fund** and **General Fund**. The **Eureka Chapter** has also received extra contributions for the **Humboldt Botanical Garden's Moss Family Temperate Woodland Garden**.

Special thank you to **Jim Bauml** and **Stacy Schaefer**, **George** and **Kathy Burtchett**, **Ellen Gill**, **Catherine Fanucchi**, **Anita Rest, Carol Ollivier, Jim and Gay Morrison** and **Gayle Teter**.

If you haven't sent in your **membership renewal** yet, please find the **stamped and addressed envelope** on your desk and send **your renewal TODAY**. Think about making an extra contribution, too.

"**It is not so much our friends' help that helps us as the confident knowledge that they will help us"**

Epicurus, philosopher (c. 341-270 BCE)

Renew Your Membership Today

Members who bring a *new* guest to a meeting get a Free Plant

Become a new Member and get a Free Plant

WORD OF THE MONTH: EPIPHYTE

By Bruce Palmer

The word for this month is **EPIPHYTE.** The word derives from the Greek *epi* (upon) and *phyton* (plant). Epiphytic plants live on other plants, typically on the stems of large trees, but do not parasitize them, carrying on photosynthesis independently of their hosts. I was drawn to this word as I was watering our epiphytic vanilla orchid. It lives on our back porch and is happily clinging to the upper casing of the window, as show in the illustration below.

Karen Angel will give us a program this month about plants in Venezuela where many rain forest plants are epiphytic. An epiphytic existence is very advantageous to smaller plants in tropical rain forests and more temperate cloud forests. Forests in those environments produce tall canopy trees. Rainfall in these habitats typically exceeds 100 inches (250 centimeters) per year and can exceed 400 inches (1,000 centimeters) in places such as the cloud forests of my home island of Maui. A ground cover or understory plant in this environment is going to have major problems. The soil is constantly saturated, making it hard for roots to carry on respiration. In addition, the canopy trees often block out most of the light, making photosynthesis quite difficult. The solution to both of these problems for smaller plants is to become epiphytic. In tropical and temperate wet forests it is common to see all sorts of plants growing as epiphytes high on the trunks of trees. Spores of mosses, liverworts and ferns and seeds of orchids, bromeliads and other small plants lodge in bark, branching points and rotted spots. There they germinate and thrive, carrying on photosynthesis, getting water, carbon dioxide and oxygen from the air, not the plants they live on. Some of the required micro nutrients may come from dead cells on the outsides of the host plants or be blown as dust into cracks in the bark by wind. By whatever means epiphytic plants get their sustenance, they have great advantages over small plants forced to grow on the forest floor.

One of my favorite epiphytic plants, endemic to the cloud forest on Pu'u Kukui, the western peak on Maui, is *Lobelia gloria montis.* This lobelia, described and named by Joseph Rock of American Rhododendron Society fame, is six to ten feet tall when in bloom. Typically, as in the example on the left, it grows on the trunks of 'Ohi'a (*Metrosideros polymorpha)* trees to escape the knee-deep mud on the forest floor.

If you're interested in more details about epiphytic plants, look for the winter issue of the Journal, where it is scheduled to be "The Word". That will be the issue where all the information about our upcoming ARS International Convention will be available for the many ARS members who intend to come to Eureka from at least as far away as France. By the time the Journal arrives in your mailbox, you will have been asked to help with some aspect of the massive undertaking our chapter is embarked upon. Save the dates April 27-30, 2017 to help; don't plan to leave town.

Volunteer now for the April 2017 ARS Convention hosted by the Eureka Chapter. Diane Larkin has volunteered to be our coordinator and job-assigner. Early volunteers get the best jobs! Volunteer opportunities include; Plant Sale cashiers and sales staff, registration table, tour hosts, silent auction and raffle workers.

RHODODENDRONS IN THE REDWOODS
ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION
AMERICAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY
EUREKA, CALIFORNIA
APRIL 27-30, 2017

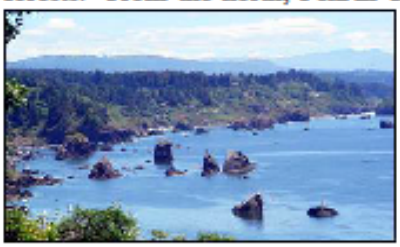
Register now for the American Rhododendron Society's annual spring Convention April 27-30, 2017. The Eureka Chapter will host the convention which will bring visitors to world-famous Humboldt County, California from across the nation, Canada and around the world. Top notch speakers will be featured every day, along with tours of redwood forests, private and public gardens, azalea reserves and Victorian architecture.

The Red Lion Hotel will be our host hotel, with a rate of $99 per night per room plus tax. The rate includes a full breakfast and an airport shuttle. Thursday and Sunday events will be held at the hotel. The new state-of-the-art Sequoia Conference Center, three blocks from the Red Lion Hotel, will be our meeting and banqueting venue Friday and Saturday. The audio-visual setup at this venue is superb with two gigantic screens and six other smaller ones; no one should have viewing problems.Visitors can walk to the conference center, take the shuttle or drive; there is abundant parking at the center.

For many ARS members, seeing the Redwoods (*Sequoia sempervirens*) is high on the must see "bucket list", as are the rugged North Coast of California with its *Rhododendron macrophyllum* and Stagecoach Hill, the home of the Smith-Mossman 1966 collections of *Rhododendron occcidentale* azaleas.

In addition to the area's redwood parks and other natural wonders, Eureka and its neighboring towns abound with well-preserved Victorian homes displaying the famous Queen Anne "Carpenter Gothic" style. The Carson Mansion (now a private club) is the most famous example from the late 19th century era of the lumber barons in northwestern California.

Eureka is served by United Express twice daily from San Francisco. Flying to San Francisco and transferring to Eureka is the usual air transport option. Renting a car in San Francisco and driving to Eureka is a very scenic alternative. Drive time from San Francisco is about seven hours through the wine country with its rolling hills and on north through the Coast Range mountains and redwood forests. From the north, PenAir flies from Portland, Oregon to Crescent City, California and to the Eureka/Arcata airport. An alternative to flying directly to Eureka might be to fly to Crescent City or to Medford, Oregon, then rent a car. Drive time from Crescent City is about two hours; from Medford about four hours. Both routes are quite scenic, with wild rivers, rugged mountains and redwood forests well worth visiting. Availability of rental cars is limited in Crescent City. Several car rental agencies operate at the Eureka/Arcata airport. The Red Lion Hotel offers free shuttle service for convention attendees to and from the Eureka/Arcata airport.



Check out the Eureka Chapter Web Page for more 2017 Convention information

www.EurekaRhody.org

Plant of the Month

***Rhododendron* 'Pink Walloper'**

By, Don Wallace

Do you like flower trusses the size of a basketball…maybe even larger? Then 'Pink Walloper' is for you. Created by the late Halfdan Lem in the 1960's, this amazing cross of 'Anna' x 'Marinus Koster' resulted in quite a number of unique and worthwhile seedlings, many of which were named. 'Lem's Monarch', 'Point Defiance', and 'Red Walloper' to name just a few. These plants are quite unlike any other rhododendron with thick leathery leaves, fat stems, and unusually large flower trusses. The white flowers have a bright magenta picotee, which makes the flowers stunning. One 'Pink Walloper' plant will grow to be 10 feet tall and 15 feet wide in 10-15 years. The foliage is lush all the way to the ground, giving the plant a majestic presence.

Halfdan was a big Norwegian, born in Nordfjord, Norway, he arrived in Seattle by way of Ketchikan, Alaska, where he had been a partner in a fishing & canning company. In 1933 he and his wife Anna moved to Seattle and began developing rhododendrons. Anna helped out and even named some of the creations, but the rhodies were mainly Halfdan's obsession. She watched him in the fields, an enormous fellow whom she kept well-fed, dashing amidst his shrubs with pollen on his fingers, pollinating trusses like a madman.

Halfdan, until his death in 1969 at the age of eighty-three, was a central figure of the Rum Dum Club which met at various members' houses, or in each others' gardens. At these gatherings he was noted for his hard drinking, his laughter and humor. The membership of the Rum Dum Club was a who's-who of pioneer hybridizers in the Northwest, including Frank Mossman of Vancouver, Washington, who helped develop 'Pink Walloper'.

Our friend and Eureka Chapter President, Jerry Reynolds, passed away last November. As a legacy to his generosity he remembered the Eureka Chapter in his end of life plan. He left the Eureka Chapter, the Eureka Symphony and the San Francisco Symphony gifts to carry on each organizations' mission.

Jerry was a Life member of the American Rhododendron Society. He was recognized with the Chapter's Bronze medal and as the Humboldt Botanical Garden's Volunteer of the Year for being a very reliable Wild Weeder and Grateful Deadheader. He was on the organizational committees which put on the 1993, 1999 and 2007 ARS conventions hosted by the Eureka Chapter. He was on the 2017 Convention planning committee until his death.

The Chapter will be accepting recommendations from its members as to the use of the funds received from Jerry's estate. *(Jerry is shown with Dee Daneri in the Moss Family Temperate Woodland Garden at Humboldt Botanical Garden.)*

Bruce Palmer presenting the Bronze medal to Bill Troiano

THE AMERICAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY EUREKA CHAPTER BRONZE MEDAL AWARD

YOU JOINED EUREKA CHAPTER, ARS MORE THAN ELEVEN YEARS AGO. YOU VOLUNTEERED TO CLEAN AND POLISH THE TWENTY-TWO TROPHIES AWARDED AT THE ANNUAL FLOWER SHOW. YOU HAVE PERFORMED THAT SERVICE EVERY YEAR SINCE, IN ADDITION TO SERVING EACH YEAR AS A CASHIER AT THE SHOW. WITHOUT YOUR LONG-TERM EFFORTS THE SHOW WOULD NOT SUCCEED. THE EUREKA CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY IS PROUD TO PRESENT THE BRONZE MEDAL TO

WILLIAM TROIANO

26 MAY 2016

(actual award presented September 22)

Left, Ellie Gaynor was recognized with a gift of a Rhododendron Species book for her service as President of the Eureka Chapter. **Right**, The Eureka Chapter had 17 (2 of whom were camera shy) members who attended the Western Regional Conference in Newport, Oregon the last weekend of September.

SUMMER ROAD TRIP AND MAGNOLIAS

By Don Smart, Past President ARS, Cascade Chapter Newsletter and Jack-of-all-trades

Reprinted from Cascade Chapter Newsletter

Editor's note; Don stayed with the Walshes at the Rhody Hostel this last summer. We had a delightful visit with him and took him to Humboldt Botanical Gardens where the magnolias are now showing their beautiful red fruit and seeds.

In July, I put 2100 miles on my truck traveling down the Oregon and California Coast, over to eastern San Francisco Bay, and then over to Fallon, Nevada about 2 hours east of Reno. I then wandered back home through eastern Oregon and Washington.

OK, so what? Well, one of my stops was a couple of days visiting Tim and June Walsh in Eureka , California. Tim and June have been very active and involved in the ARS for years. They and many of the members of the Eureka ARS Chapter were and are very involved in the creation and maintaining The Humboldt Botanical Garden. (www.hbgf.org)

While I was there, I got the grand tour from Tim while June was giving an educational tour to a group of college students. I won't tell you about the whole garden, but I learned a most interesting thing about *Magnolia grandiflora* seed pods and seeds. (see photos below)

The fruit of the *Magnolia grandiflora* looks like a cone. Is it actually a cone or what is it? Although it may look like a cone, it is actually an aggregate fruit that is woody. This flowering structure has changed little over millions of years.

Magnolias are some of the most primitive of all flowering plants, but the seeds are enclosed in the fruit during their development, and therefore they must be classified as angiosperms, not as gymnosperms-the group to which conifers belong. As the fruit matures, scale-like areas on it split apart and the seeds, covered in a red fleshy aril, are exposed as they are in gymnosperms.

Do birds like to eat the seed of magnolias? Yes, songbirds especially like the seed. The seed of a magnolia is surrounded by a brightly colored fleshy aril that is high in fat. This provides migrating birds with a good source of energy as they migrate to the south. Evergreen species of magnolia also provide shelter for birds and wildlife that stay for the winter. Magnolia seeds are designed for the birds who disperse them. They are bright red, a color that attracts birds. And, before they fall to the ground, they are positioned to be seen. When the seed bursts from its tidy carpel dwelling, it hangs from a silken thread. Dangling from the fruit's high branch, the seductive scarlet seed sways in the wind: a persistent advertisement to hungry birds. The little thread is actually "stretchy" like a rubber band. The bird must pull it off to eat it and then "poop" out the actual seed somewhere else. This way the seeds do not just fall to the ground and compete with the parent tree.

The entire object—a magnolia seed case, with its ruby treasures—reminds one of a jeweled brooch, or pendant. And, in a design parallel of another kind, it's been told that magnolia fruits were once quite popular among young American boys in Southern states, who noted their structural resemblance to a hand grenade. Girls and their jewels, boys and their weapons, magnolias and their seeds—and the world plays on.

Don Smart—(From my own observations and credit to several websites.)

Fruit and seed of Magnolia Grandiflora *Photos provided by Don Smart*

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.
Hlg1anderg@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.

Eureka Chapter American Rhododendron Society

Rhododendrons in the Redwoods

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

Future Programs

October 27, 2016	Karen Angel	Venezuelan Botanicals and Angel Falls
November 24, 2016	Thanksgiving	Enjoy the company of family and friends
December 1, 2016	Holiday Potluck	Program to be announced
January 26, 2017	Christy Hartsell	Vireya Rhododendrons
February 23, 2017	Jack Olsen	Growing from Seed
March 23, 2017	Elaine Sedlack	Westonbirt Arboretum, England's National Arboretum
April 27 to April 30, 2017	Eureka Chapter Hosts the Annual American Rhododendron Society Convention, Garden Tours, World renowned Speakers, Fabulous Plant Sale	
May 25, 2017	Member Only Mini– Show	
June 4, 2017	Members' Garden Tour and Picnic	

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